

**ASTRO HOLDINGS, INC.**  
**3301 S. Columbus Boulevard**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19148**

March 12, 2026

Honorable Sean Duffy  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Southeast Pennsylvania Multimodal Freight Plan for Global Supply Chains**

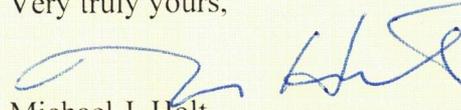
Dear Honorable Sean Duffy:

Astro Holdings Inc. (Astro) is the lessee of the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT), the container terminal of The Port of Philadelphia. The PAMT has just about doubled its container volume in the last ten years. The roadway system and infrastructure in the southeast port district of Philadelphia have not been updated to efficiently handle the welcomed growth. I am writing to offer my strong support for a planning grant application submitted by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PhilaPort) through the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY26 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. With a BUILD award of \$3,456,000, project partners will plan and design freight connections between major freight and logistics sites in South Philadelphia including the PAMT, the Navy Yard, and The Bellwether District, a 1300-acre redevelopment site (TBWD) that will become a hub for logistics, e-commerce, and life sciences in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. South Philadelphia is experiencing historic levels of development that require innovative solutions to challenges related to increasing activity, aging infrastructure, outdated freight connectivity and traffic bottlenecks.

With the development of TBWD, expansion of warehouse space at PhilaPort, and projections of continued rapid increases in container volumes at PAMT, truck traffic in the area is expected to increase more than twentyfold, making it essential to plan freight networks that will safely and efficiently accommodate the added traffic. This project represents a critical opportunity to proactively plan safe and reliable connections between South Philadelphia's freight, logistics, and warehousing uses. Through optimized multimodal infrastructure, the project will provide options for handling intermodal freight, address trucking bottlenecks, and prioritize the needed improvements to transportation infrastructure. Ultimately, implementing solutions and updating logistics infrastructure will provide economic benefits to residents and businesses in the region and throughout all of PA. Passenger and commercial traffic safety, more jobs, efficiency resulting in lower cost of living are all possible favorable outcomes starting with the thorough planning considered in this BUILD application.

I offer my full support to this critical project for connecting major economic hubs, improving competitiveness and driving economic growth in the Philadelphia region. I can be contacted at (215) 870-0328 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Holt  
Secretary