

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to offer my support to the proposal of the Port of South Louisiana, requesting federal funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. These funds will be used to construct a new grain terminal system and dock for the purposed of facilitating the movement of more agricultural goods from American producers.

The project will employ innovative financing through a public-private partnership of the Port and private sector firms that have successfully participated in previous capital improvements at the Port. BUILD grant funds will be leveraged with private investment to optimize project financing. This proposal is expected to significantly enhance export trade, particularly to Asia, Central America, Europe, and Africa.

As we have previously discussed, the Port of South Louisiana is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere, exporting valuable American products to international markets, and importing the feedstocks to sustain America's robust agriculture, petroleum and chemical manufacturing sectors. The Port is a strategic national asset that supports jobs and economic activity throughout much of the United States.

Thank you for your full consideration of Port of South Louisiana's application and your continued advocacy for important infrastructure developments. If you have any additional questions regarding this project, please contact my office at (225) 442-1731.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress