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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United State Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

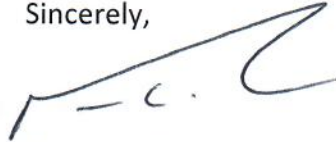
It has recently come to my attention that the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) will apply to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2020 BUILD Grant application.

The Port of South Louisiana is North America's largest tonnage port, serving as a crucial economic driver for the region and the nation. This past year, POSL logged 303 million short tons of total throughput. The economic impact of the POSL for our state and region cannot be overstated. A recent economic impact study found that the combination of the POSL companies' capital spending and operational spending supported 41 percent of all personal income and 63 percent of all jobs in the region. The Port's continued growth and the vitality of the commerce it supports, however, hinges on improving and expanding its infrastructure.

The proposed *Port of South Louisiana Greenfield Louisiana Project* will construct a new grain terminal system and dock for the purposes of facilitating the movement of more agricultural goods from producers (U. S. farmers) within the rural local and regional area to end users throughout the world. The proposed project is expected to significantly enhance export trade, particularly to Asia, Central America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, at the port. This project will employ innovative financing through a public private partnership of the Board of Commissioners of the POSL and long-standing investment and development 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.

The Port of South Louisiana is to be commended for its proposal, and I ask for the Department of Transportation's thorough consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Domino, in my district office, at (504) 288-3777.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.L. Richmond', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cedric L. Richmond