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GARY L. SMITH JR.
LOUISIANA STATE SENATE
District 19

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary B-Chairman
Insurance
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
Transportation, Highways
and Public Works
Joint Legislative Committee
on Capital Outlay

October 11, 2017

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

**RE: Letter of Support/Port of South Louisiana
Globalplex Intermodal Efficiency Improvements Project
2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant**

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing on behalf of the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) to express my support for their 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) proposal.

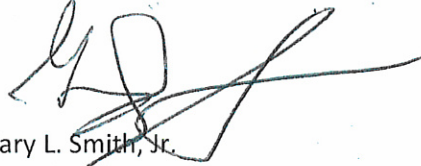
The Port of South Louisiana is North America's largest tonnage port, serving as a crucial economic driver for the region and the nation. In 2016 alone the POSL logged 294.9 million short tons of total throughput, setting a new cargo volume record. The economic impact of the POSL cannot be overstated. The combination of the POSL companies' capital spending and operational spending in 2013 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 Globalplex Intermodal Efficiency Improvements Project* would allow for a new heavy-capacity dock access bridge, general cargo dock modifications, and replacement of existing dilapidated gantry cranes, with new, highly efficient, on-dock mobile harbour cranes. These improvements promise to reduce travel time, savings of vessel crew, bring the terminal to a state of good repair, and reduce vehicle miles traveled. Additionally, these efficiency improvements increase the Port's capacity to meet industry demand by processing greater cargo volumes in faster time and an energy efficient manner; while expanding business and sustaining regional employment opportunities.

I hope that you will consider the far reaching regional and national benefits of this project in considering this proposal. Many thanks for your time and careful consideration of this important proposal.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Smith, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary L. Smith, Jr.
State Senator
District 19