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October 11, 2017

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

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, to express my support for their 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) proposal.

The ports of Louisiana are vital to our economy with the Louisiana port system and the industries that partner with ports being responsible for over 396,000 jobs in Louisiana with earnings of \$19.5 billion. The deep-water ports of the Lower Mississippi River include the ports of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and South Louisiana and have access to over 26 million people in 33 states. Louisiana has five of the largest tonnage ports in the nation with the Port of South Louisiana being in the #1 position logging 294.9 million short tons of total throughput in 2016 alone. The Louisiana port system's continued growth and the vitality of the commerce it supports 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.

Sincerely,

Jay Hardman
Executive Director