



NATALIE ROBOTOM  
PARISH PRESIDENT

# ST. JOHN

## THE BAPTIST PARISH

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

1801 WEST AIRLINE HIGHWAY • LAPLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States 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,

Please accept this letter of support for the Port of South Louisiana's 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 harbor 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 a more time and 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,

Natalie Robotom  
Parish President