



ST. BERNARD PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 1331, Chalmette, Louisiana 70044-1331
Telephone (504) 277-8418
Fax (504) 277-8471

Drew M. Heaphy
Executive Director

Jerry V. Graves, Sr.
Director of Operations

Board of Commissioners

Harold J. Anderson
Henry Ballard, Jr.
Elton J. LeBlanc
Cheri Chestnut Quigley

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United State 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 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 faster time and an energy efficient manner; while expanding business and sustaining regional employment opportunities.



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The Honorable Elaine Chao
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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Drew M. Heaphy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Drew M. Heaphy
Executive Director