

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madame Secretary:

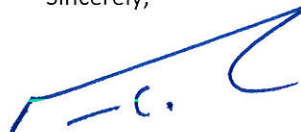
It has been brought to my attention that the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) will submit a proposal for funding to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program.

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 funding for the *Port of South Louisiana's 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 applaud the Port of South Louisiana's commitment to the community. I appreciate the Department of Transportation giving every consideration to their request. Moreover, I ask that you keep my office apprised of the progress and final decisions made regarding this submission. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Karen Domino, in my district office, at (504) 288-37787.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress