



**PORT OF GREATER
BATON ROUGE**

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July 2, 2018

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
Port of South Louisiana Globalplex Multi-Modal Connections Project
2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

Dear Secretary Chao,

Thank you for your continued advocacy for our nations transportation projects, including water infrastructure. I am writing on behalf of the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) to express my support for their 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant 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 31 states. Louisiana has five of the largest tonnage ports in the nation with the Port of South Louisiana being in the #1 position logging 307 million short tons of total throughput in 2017 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 Multi-Modal Connections Project* is a fully intermodal project that will include a new heavy capacity dock access bridge, an access road, a laydown yard, and connection to the Kansas City Southern (KCS) rail line. Once completed, it will serve as an interim container site while the Port develops their new multi-modal facility. Additionally, it will improve the Port's maritime industrial park's existing bulk and break-bulk operations to withstand greater loads for larger trucks, effectively reducing the number of trips and decreasing loading and unloading times for our users. With the connection of the laydown area to the KCS rail line, cargo will be able to shift from truck to rail, further reducing emissions, roadway maintenance, and crash costs as truck mileage is reduced. The project also complements existing port projects currently underway, including dock reinforcement and new mobile harbor cranes.

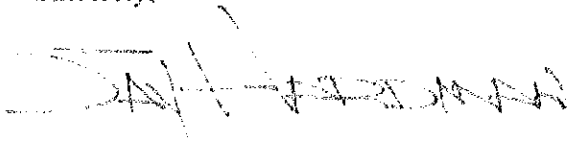
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I hope that you will consider the far reaching regional and national benefits of this project in considering this proposal. Many thanks for your time and careful consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Hardman". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and is positioned above the printed name.

Jay Hardman, P.E.

Executive Director