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United States Senate

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

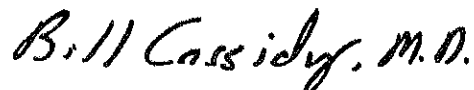
It has recently come to my attention that the Port of South Louisiana is applying for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. They are requesting \$16 million for their GlobalPlex Intermodal Efficiency Improvements Project.

The GlobalPlex Intermodal Efficiency Improvements Project includes the replacement of existing gantry cranes with two Terex Gottwald 6400 mobile harbor cranes. The project would also include the reinforcement of the existing dock to accommodate the new cranes. Additionally, a large dock bridge would be constructed at one end of the dock to allow larger, fully loaded trucks to exit the dock while the existing bridge at the other end would be utilized for the entrance of unloaded trucks onto the dock. The Port anticipates the project will result in greater efficiency in loading and unloading ships, barges, and trucks; increase the Port's capacity; and lower emissions through a reduction in idle engine operations. The \$16 million BUILD grant request would represent 44% of the \$37 million cost of the project. The Port and the State of Louisiana would provide the remaining \$21 million in matching funds.

The Port of South Louisiana is experiencing large annual increases in demand and this project is designed to accommodate its growing needs. The Port is the largest tonnage port district in the United States with over 308 million short tons of cargo moving through it. This represents a 19% increase over last year. In 2015, approximately 4,413 oceangoing vessels and 57,224 barges called on the port. The Port of South Louisiana is one of the largest single contributors to the Southeast Louisiana regional economy.

I am thankful for the Department of Transportation's consideration in securing funding for this worthwhile project. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME