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GARY L. SMITH JR.
LOUISIANA STATE SENATE
District 19

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary B-Chairman
Insurance
Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
Transportation, Highways
and Public Works
Joint Legislative Committee
on Capital Outlay

September 13, 2019

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
2019 Port Infrastructure Development Program**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Thank you for your continued advocacy for our nation's transportation projects, including port infrastructure. I am writing on behalf of the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) to express my support for their 2019 Port Infrastructure Development grant 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. This past year the Port logged 303 million short tons of total throughput. The economic impact of the POSL for our state and region cannot be overstated. A recent economic impact study found that the combination of the POSL companies' capital spending and operational spending 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 Multi-Modal Connections Project** is a fully intermodal project that will include a new heavy capacity dock access bridge, an access road, a rail spur, and a dry storage area with conveyors to move bulk material. Once completed, it will allow the efficient storage and transport of bulk and break-bulk material by rail, water and truck. This facility will facilitate nearby industrial development by allowing the dry storage and transloading of various construction

The Honorable Elaine Chao

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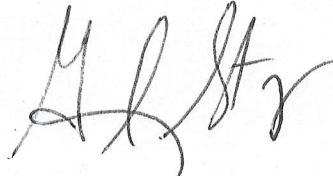
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materials. The project also complements existing port projects currently underway, including dock reinforcement and new mobile harbor cranes.

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.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. L. Smith, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gary L. Smith, Jr.
State Senator
District 19