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September 10, 2019

ASSISTANT TO THE MAJORITY WHIP

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

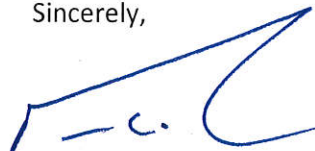
It has been brought to my attention that the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) will submit a proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to fund the Plank-Nicholson Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

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% of all personal income and 63% of all jobs in the region. The Port'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 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 materials. The project also complements existing port projects currently underway, including dock reinforcement and new mobile harbor cranes.

The Port of South Louisiana is to be commended for its application, and I ask for your thorough consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Domino, in my district office, at (504) 288-3777.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress