STEVE SCALISE

1st District, Louisiana

REPUBLICAN WHIP

THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1801

September 11, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Port of South Louisiana (POSL) for funding under 2019 Port Infrastructure Development Grant program for the *Port of South Louisiana Globalplex Multi-Modal Connections 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 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 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.

I am very interested in this matter and would appreciate your keeping me informed of the outcome of this application. Knowing funds are limited and proposals are reviewed through a very competitive basis, I am respectfully asking for full and fair consideration within the applicable laws and regulations. Please review the proposal thoroughly and carefully for its merit.

If you have any questions, please contact me through Pam Marphis in my Metairie District office at 110 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Suite 500, Metairie, Louisiana, 7005, (504) 837-1259. Thanks for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Scalise Member of Congress

SS:pm