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September 10, 2019

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 Port Infrastructure Development Program. They are requesting approximately \$15 million for improvements related to Building 71 at the port's Globalplex Dock. The State of Louisiana is providing a match of \$3.8 million.

The Port of South Louisiana plans to use approximately half the grant to repair and reinforce the foundation and floor of Building 71 to facilitate the storage of heavier cargo. During separately financed renovations of the frame, walls, and roof, it was discovered that the foundation was damaged. It is their intention to use \$4.5 million towards the purchase and installation of upgrades to the conveyor for Building 71 to reduce truck traffic on the dock. The port anticipates spending \$1.5 million to repair a rail siding and scale adjacent to Building 71 as well as an additional \$1.5 million to pave the road leading to Building 71 and an adjacent laydown area.

I appreciate your department's consideration of this application. 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

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