



April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

The Honorable Ann Phillips, Administrator  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips:

The American Great Lakes Ports Association represents the public port authorities on the United States side of the Great Lakes. Each of our member port agencies is a division of state or local government, or an independent agency created by state statute. As a group, and individually, Great Lakes ports work to foster maritime commerce in the region and economic development in their communities.

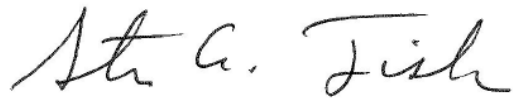
A 2018 economic impact analysis concluded that the Great Lakes navigation system supports 237,000 jobs and \$35 billion in economic activity in the United States and Canada. Recognizing the importance of this critical trade route, both nations have invested billions in modernizing navigation infrastructure such as locks, channels, breakwaters, and jetties. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation has invested more than \$100 million to modernize its navigation locks on the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The Department's Port Infrastructure Development Grant program will further this work by helping port managers address local infrastructure needs.

I am writing to share our support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's application for a 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant. This project will increase capacity at the Clure Public Marine Terminal by adding almost 100,000 square feet of new on-dock, rail-served warehouse space, demolishing dilapidated grain elevators to allow for roughly 7.5 acres of outdoor material laydown area, and purchasing a new hybrid-electric mobile harbor crane, with the capability to operate in full-electric mode, to enhance Port operations. The proposed project positions the DSPA to better support regional industries, including energy, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and mineral processing, sustainable forest products and more.

Unlike coastal ports, the Great Lakes are an integrated and interconnected navigation system. The success of each port helps ensure the viability of the others. For that reason, the American Great Lakes Ports Association is pleased to support this project, the benefits of which will extend far beyond Minnesota.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve A. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven A. Fisher  
Executive Director