



**Emily Larson**  
Mayor

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April 24, 2023

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

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips  
Maritime Administrator  
Maritime Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips:

Thank you for all that you do in service to the United States of America.

On behalf of the City of Duluth, I write to express support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$30M in funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion Project.

The City of Duluth and DSPA have shared goals of supporting our community and region through economic development. The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion will result in 100,000 square feet of new rail-served, on-dock warehouse space, removal of substandard former grain elevators to allow for 7.5 acres of outdoor material laydown space, and the purchase of a new hybrid-electric mobile harbor crane. These improvements are critically important to meet the current demand within our business community and to accommodate future growth.

The Port of Duluth-Superior, as the largest port in the Great Lakes, is an important asset for not only the Duluth region, but is also for our state and the upper Midwest heartland region. This \$37.5 million project is a critical part of the strategic vision of DSPA to provide flexible, intermodal supply chain options. This project will be the impetus for future growth and improvements in our port.

The City of Duluth is proud to partner with DSPA in a variety of initiatives. DSPA fosters crucial regional maritime and freight-based commerce, promotes trade and development, and facilitates the industrial development within the Duluth community. The initiatives within this grant application support the City of Duluth's goals of revitalization and expansion of the Duluth-Superior Port and are consistent with goals identified in our Imagine Duluth 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The City of Duluth is very appreciative of the leadership and advocacy that DSPA plays in our economy.

[www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov)

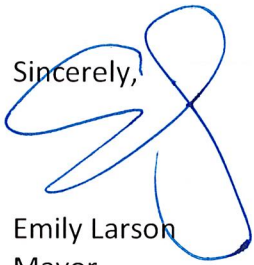
The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project builds on the economic strength of our region and will contribute to the growth of high-quality, good paying jobs for our residents. I strongly urge your support for this application.

Again, thank you for your service and please don't hesitate to reach out should you need anything from my office.

Sincerely,

Emily Larson  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a loop and a vertical stroke.