



395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

April 24, 2023

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

Re: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application – MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, I am pleased to provide this Letter of Support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's application for \$30M in funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project.

The Clure Public Marine Terminal is located in the Port of Duluth-Superior, one of the top 20 ports in the United States by tonnage, and one of the largest marine gateways for U.S. trade with Canada, the nation's number one trade partner. The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project includes construction of 100,000 square feet of new, on-dock, rail-served warehouse space, demolition of dilapidated former grain elevators to allow for more than seven acres of outdoor material laydown space and the purchase of a new, hybrid-electric mobile harbor crane to enhance port operations. The total project cost is \$37.5 million, with \$7.5 million being provided by non-federal sources; we intend to pursue State Port Development Assessment Grant funds to help with this match. This project leverages the port's position at the furthest west point of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system, with direct, uncongested access to three major highway corridors and four, Class I railroads.

The initiatives within this grant application support the State of Minnesota's and MnDOT's goals of promoting economic development in and around ports and harbors and expediting the movement of commodities on the commercial navigation system. This project is consistent with the 2018 Minnesota Statewide Freight System Plan and the Statewide Ports and Waterways Plan.

Your consideration and approval of this application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. DOT