

Liz Olson
State Representative

District 8A
St. Louis County



Minnesota House of Representatives

CHAIR: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips:

I am pleased to provide this Letter of Support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$30M in funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program for their 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project.

The Port of Duluth-Superior, as the largest Great Lakes port, is uniquely positioned to meet the freight and logistics needs of not only Minnesota and Wisconsin, but the entire Upper Midwest region. The importance of a robust intermodal port cannot be understated in its outsized role for supply chain management. The DSPA owns and operates the Clure Public Marine Terminal and has strategically invested, with the help of partners including the State of Minnesota, to ensure that port operations provide customers the shipping, cargo handling, and warehousing options that best support their business. This includes intermodal options to save time and money when material or products are being shipped out, but also provides additional options as businesses work to ensure they have a strong supply chain for materials or components they need to receive for their operations.

The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project will increase capacity at the Port by adding almost 100,000 square feet of new on-dock, rail-served warehouse space, removing dilapidated former grain elevators to allow for roughly 7.5 acres of outdoor material laydown area, and purchasing a new hybrid-electric mobile harbor crane to enhance Port operations. The overall project cost is \$37.5 million, with \$7.5 million coming from non-federal matching funds.

I respectfully request your consideration and approval of this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Olson".

Liz Olson
State Representative

