



May 3, 2024

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:

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.

We are writing to share our support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$33.8 million in federal assistance through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2024 Duluth Port Terminal Expansion project. These federal funds will be matched by \$8.45 million in secured state and local funding.

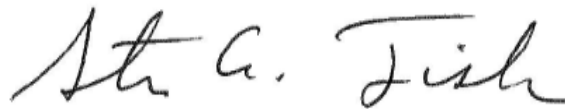
The DSPA owns and operates Clure Public Marine Terminal on Rice's Point in Duluth, which falls within the larger Lincoln Park neighborhood. Improvements to port infrastructure and service capabilities made by DSPA support the growth of well-paying industrial jobs in Duluth and strengthen supply chain options for regional industries. As of 2022, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,000 direct and induced jobs and over \$1.6 billion in economic activity.

The 2024 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion and Rehabilitation project includes 3 main components: (1) reconstruction of 625 linear feet of the Berth 11 dock at the Clure Public Marine Terminal; (2) demolishing the former grain elevators at the Duluth Lake Port dock to create 7.5 acres of new laydown space; and (3) reconstruction of 1150 linear feet of the Duluth Lake Port dock. This urgently needed rehabilitation of port infrastructure will allow for future expansion at the port, which last year handled an impressive 31.7 million tons of cargo, including iron ore, cement, durum wheat, spring wheat, oats, beet pulp pellets, and breakbulk, project and containerized cargo.

Over the program's history, Great Lakes ports have received an inequitable share of PIDP funding relative to other regions of the United States. Last year, only 2% of PIDP funds were awarded to Great Lakes port projects. The Duluth project provides the U.S. Department of Transportation an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of Great Lakes supply chains and correct this funding inequity.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven A. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven A. Fisher  
Executive Director