




Roger J. Reinert
Mayor

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Room 422
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

April 29, 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:

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 \$33.8M in grant funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2024 Duluth Port "Intermodal Terminal Expansion Project;" this grant, should it be awarded, will be matched by \$8.45M in secured state grant and local funding.

The City of Duluth and DSPA have shared goals of supporting our community and region through economic development. 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. The 2024 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion 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 facility 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.

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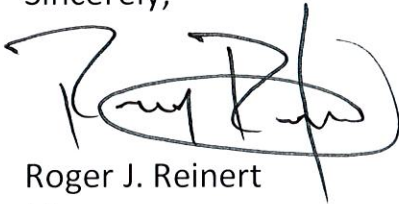
The Port of Duluth-Superior, as the largest port in the Great Lakes, is an important asset for not only the Duluth region, but also for our state and the upper Midwest heartland region. The proposed grant project is a critical part of the strategic vision of DSPA to provide flexible, intermodal supply 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.

The 2024 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger J. Reinert". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a circular flourish at the end.

Roger J. Reinert
Mayor