



05/08/2024

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:

On behalf of Ecolibrium3, please accept this letter of 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 Terminal Expansion project; this grant, should it be awarded, will be matched by \$8.45M in secured state grant 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.

Eco3 is the lead frontline community-based organization in the port area. We steward the Justice40 Lincoln Park neighborhood, that incorporates this project area, with a focus on the intersection of energy, equity, and economic vitality. Eco3 and our Main Street LNPK program, continually partners with DSPA to ensure that actions are beneficial to our residents and businesses, and are moving our community toward greater health and lower economic disparity. The work proposed in this grant aligns with work we are leading in partnership with the US DOE's Communities Local Energy Action Plan program to develop a 10-year decarbonization action plan for Lincoln Park. Eco3 is eager to serve as the liaison between the

C-LEAP work with the National Renewable Energy Lab and provide the DSPA with a forum for community outreach, as appropriate during project implementation.

A major opportunity to advance the regional economy, and produce significant impact on national climate emissions, has resulted from the C-LEAP work. Northeastern Minnesota, anchored by the Duluth Port, has been found to be the most technically and economically viable place to advance green iron, and aligned industries, if infrastructure construction can occur in the next 8 years. The Port's continued support of wind development through turbine shipping, combined with this project, is foundational for American industrial decarbonization and achievement of climate goals.

The initiatives within this grant application support our neighborhood goals and Ecolibrium3's efforts to achieve a just energy transition.

We urge funding of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Slick".

Jodi Slick, CEO
Ecolibrium3