



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



May 7, 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

Subj: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD Port Infrastructure Development

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips,

I write in support of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$33.8M in grant funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program for 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. 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 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.

The Port of Duluth-Superior is the largest port on the Great Lakes and the 19th largest port in the nation by tonnage. Located at the western tip of Lake Superior, at the head of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, the port is mid-America's gateway to global trade. It serves as a hub for domestic and international cargo, and it is the largest maritime gateway for US trade with Canada. As of 2022, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,000 direct and induced

jobs and over \$1.6 billion in economic activity. LCA members visit the port daily during the season to not only load cargo but also to resupply food stores, put sailors ashore for emergencies and scheduled time off, and to conduct repairs. During the off season, our companies tie their vessels up at DSPA facilities to conduct annual maintenance and mandatory Coast Guard inspections. Additional dock space is critical to the U.S.-flagged fleet particularly in a congested port like DSPA.

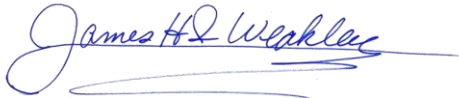
The initiatives within this grant application complement and continue a robust series of port upgrades funded in part by federal and state grant funds, which has increased warehouse capacity, rehabilitated and modernized dock walls, added and expanded an intermodal terminal, and added 28 acres of maritime cargo handling and outdoor storage and additional usable Berths to the Clure Terminal Expansion area over the last 10 years.

I support DSPA's strong partnership in the regional business community and appreciate your consideration of this application.

About Lake Carriers' Association

Since 1880, Lake Carriers' has represented the U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet, which today can move more than 90 million tons of cargos annually that are the foundation of American industry, infrastructure, and energy: iron ore, stone, coal, cement, and other dry bulk materials such as grain, salt, and sand.

Sincerely,



James H. I. Weakley
President
Lake Carriers' Association