



May 8, 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 LISC Duluth, 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 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.

LISC has been operating in Duluth since 1997. Our mission is, "Together with residents and partners, we forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America – great places to live, work, visit, do business, and raise families." The initiatives within this grant application support LISC's goals of creating economic opportunity in Duluth's Lincoln Park neighborhood – one of the priority neighborhoods we work in given its long history of underinvestment. The Seaway Port Authority's Terminal Expansion would add desperately needed living wage jobs in a key part of the community.

We appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely

Sumair Sheikh
Executive Director

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

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