



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155**

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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 the 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 three 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 1,150 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 and 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.

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 have 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 ten years.

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I support the DSPA's strong partnership in Minnesota's freight transportation sector and appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Daubenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "D".

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Ann C. Phillips, Rear Admiral, Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. DOT