

United States Senate

May 13, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Application to FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program /
#MA-PID-24-001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to urge your support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program. DSPA seeks \$33.8 million in federal funding, to be matched with \$8.45 million in state and local funding, for the Duluth Port 2024 Intermodal Terminal Expansion Project.

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 2018, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,800 direct and induced jobs and over \$1.4 billion in economic activity.

DSPA's project has two main components: (1) demolish the former grain elevators at the Duluth Lake Port to create 7.5 acres of new laydown space; and (2) reconstruct 625 linear feet of the Berth 11 dock at the Clure Public Marine Terminal and reconstruct 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 containerized cargo. This project will complement and continue a robust series of port upgrades funded in part by federal grant funds.

For the reasons above, I encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions, please contact my staff Orion DiFranco by email at Orion_DiFranco@smith.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator