

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 12, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to express my strong support of the Pease Development Authority Division of Ports and Harbors (PDA-DPH) in its application for a "Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)" grant. Funding from this program would rehabilitate the main ship wharf at the Market Street Marine Terminal in Portsmouth, a critical asset for ocean commerce in New Hampshire that faces potential closure if significant wharf deficiencies are not addressed.

Many businesses across New England rely on the port to transport and receive goods. Earlier in the decade, the port witnessed significant growth in the amount of tonnage handled. Businesses are looking to utilize the Market Street Marine Terminal to satisfy rising demand for their products. Moreover, experts predict that the expansion of the Panama and Suez Canals will increase the amount of water cargo on the east coast of the United States. Shippers and receivers may be prompted to reevaluate their port options, and Portsmouth would be well-positioned to receive any small- to medium-size vessels. Taking advantage of these opportunities will enhance our country's economic competitiveness by sustaining current activity and generating new interest in the port.

These short-term and long-term benefits will only be realized once the Main Wharf at the Market Street Marine Terminal is rehabilitated. Deteriorating steel caissons and concrete superstructure elements weaken the wharf's structural integrity, and shippers and receivers currently experience significant operational limitations, including the collapse of one of two access bridges to the wharf. Failure to quickly address these flaws will diminish the ability of the port to keep pace with demand, and the economic activity described above will become an opportunity lost.

PDA-DPH is seeking \$7.5 million in FASTLANE funds to restore structural integrity and extend service life of the port. The State of New Hampshire has also committed to providing \$5 million toward the project.

I support PDA-DPH in its application for FASTLANE grant funding and urge your serious consideration of their proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator