

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 27, 2011

Secretary Ray LaHood  
United State Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER III Grant Application  
Market Street Marine Terminal Rehabilitation and Expansion  
Pease Development Authority

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in strong support of the TIGER III competitive grant application submitted by the Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors (PDA) which is seeking to rehabilitate and expand the main wharf of the Market Street Marine Terminal located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The PDA is seeking grant funding of \$11,025,000 and has secured the required 30% local match of \$4,725,000. This project is vitally important to the economic welfare of the State of New Hampshire and represents a significant and cost effective option to shipping goods and products via the interstate highway system.

The current wharf was built in 1964 and a second stage was added in 1977. The facility is New Hampshire's primary port of entry and is part of a designated Foreign-Trade Zone that employs over 780 people and exports \$3 million annually. The Market Street Terminal is a major contributor to the regional economy and is threatened with future closure without significant upgrades. Current analysis predicts that the terminal will close within two years without significant reinvestment.

The proposed project will improve the structural integrity of the existing main wharf; correcting a partial failure the wharf experienced earlier in the year. The project will also expand the existing terminal by 29,000 square feet, providing enhanced access to the entire length of the wharf while significantly improving operation functionality of the facility.

The public benefits to awarding this grant are clear. New Hampshire businesses will have increased access to the worldwide economy, resulting in increased exports and substantial economic growth. Transportation costs will become more competitive as producers will have greater access to shipping cargo by marine vessel. Federal highways will be relieved of excess truck traffic, reducing the rate of traffic congestion and improving air quality.

Should the grant be secured, PDA is prepared to begin construction in short order. All wetlands permits have been secured from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and a NEPA review is underway.

As the elected representatives for the people of New Hampshire, we support this project and strongly urge you to consider this competitive grant application.

Sincerely,



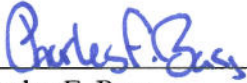
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



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Charles F. Bass  
United States Representative



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Frank Guinta  
United States Representative