

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write to express our 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.

Support from the FASTLANE program would reconstruct and revitalize the main ship wharf at the Market Street Marine Terminal in Portsmouth, a critical regional asset for ocean commerce that faces potential closure if significant wharf deficiencies are not addressed. The wharf has benefitted from a recent surge in demand from local businesses looking to export their products and import other goods. Experts predict this growth can continue with the expansion of the Panama and Suez Canals and the subsequent rise in ocean traffic. 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 weakens the wharf’s structural integrity, and shippers and receivers currently face substantial operational limitations due to the port’s aged infrastructure. Failure to sufficiently repair these flaws will hamper the ability of the port to keep pace with demand now and exploit potential growth in the future.

The State of New Hampshire has committed to matching \$5 million of the requested \$7.5 million in FASTLANE funds to restore structural integrity and extend service life of the port.

We support PDA-DPH in its application for FASTLANE grant funding and urge your serious consideration of their proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator