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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

September 12, 2019

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to bring your attention to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority's application for the U.S. Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) is requesting \$16 million in federal funding, and will provide \$4 million in local matching, to make repairs and improvements at the Facility No.1 cargo terminal. Under this project, the TLCPA would repair the failing dock face wall, implement a liquid bulk transloading operation, and modernize the on-dock rail to vessel transfer points of access.

The Port of Toledo (the Port) serves as a vital multimodal link in the Great Lakes' transportation network. Nine to 12 million tons of cargo are imported and exported across fifteen terminals to domestic and global markets. This generates \$1.12 billion annually and supports over 7,000 jobs in the region.

This grant would allow the Port to ensure its viability by using intermodal connectivity to expand in the future. A recent decision made by Cleveland Cliffs to construct a new \$800 million hot briquetted iron units production facility on port property further demonstrates the importance and the growth of the Port. The new facility will be in full operation by 2020, allowing for an increase of 100 vessels to use the port each year.

The 2019 MARAD Grant would help advance the Port's long-term strategic capital investment plan and adapt to the projected increase in traffic. I strongly urge the Department of Transportation to give this application full and fair consideration and ask that you please keep my office informed on the status of the application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator