



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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April 26, 2023

Pete Buttigieg
Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Representative of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I am sending this letter in support of the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) request for \$6,159,850 from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's PIDP Grant Program. If granted, the funding will be used to complete Pier D2 at the Port of Mobile, and the Alabama Port Authority is willing and able to provide up to a 50% match.

The project is located along the north end of the Mobile River, which has a 40' draft. Pier D2 supports Alabama's steel industry and is a state-of-the-art steel coil handling facility operated by Alabama Steel Terminals. But there is an incomplete portion of this berth that is unusable. It would be much more efficient and have much greater capacity if the approximately 200 linear feet of Pier D2 were to be completed and connected to Pier E.

Due to the rapid growth of the Port and industries in our state, such as automotive, that require steel, this project is crucial to maintaining operational fluidity at the Port. The rehabilitated pier will support supply chains for automotive manufacturing, industrial construction, infrastructure development, and many other industries that rely on steel. As a result, we expect the project to deliver and support even more jobs for the State of Alabama.

The Port operates in geographically limited areas bordered by low-income communities, downtown entertainment districts, business districts, federal interstate systems, and a vast railway infrastructure network. According to a 2021 economic impact study, The Port of Mobile is responsible for \$85 billion in annual economic impact statewide, generating 312,896 jobs across Alabama.

The Port is strategically located in the northern Gulf of Mexico with access to an international airport and two interstate systems, I-65 running north/south and I-10 running east/west. The Port's intermodal container transfer facility (ICTF), which will be an on-dock facility by 2025, provides access to five Class I and four short-line railroads. From the ICTF in Mobile, containers can reach Chicago in three days.

The Alabama Port Authority serves all 67 counties in Alabama and oversees the deep-water public port facilities at the Port of Mobile. In addition to interstate, air, and rail, the Port Authority's container, general cargo, and bulk facilities have immediate access to nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterways.

For these reasons, I support Alabama's State Port Authority's request for funding from the Department of Transportation. I ask for your fair and full consideration. If I or my staff can further assist with this matter, please contact me at 205-254-1960.

Sincerely,

TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress

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