

DALE W. STRONG
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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April 27, 2023

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Alabama State Port Authority DOT Maritime Administration PIDP Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Administration for a Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant.

The ASPA has requested \$6,159,850 in funding to complete Pier D2 at the Port of Mobile, for which the Authority is willing and able to provide a 50 percent match. Pier D2 supports the state's steel industry and is a state-of-the-art steel coil handling facility operated by Alabama Steel Terminals.

Presently, there is an incomplete portion of this berth that is unusable. Should the ASPA be awarded this grant, the funding would be utilized to complete approximately 200 linear feet of Pier D2 and connect it with Pier E. Completing this project would support the ASPA's strategic efforts to invest in and build out their facilities, ensuring the most efficient use of the state's assets.

In the interest of economic development, this project is crucial to maintaining the Port's operational efficiency. With the state experiencing rapid growth in its automotive manufacturing sector, this project is timely and aligns with Alabama's ongoing efforts to supply industry with effective means of supply procurement. In addition to bolstering the state's automotive sector, the rehabilitated pier will support supply chains for industrial construction, infrastructure development, and other industries that rely on steel.

The ASPA anticipates that this project, once complete, will generate additional economic activity and spur job growth across the state's 67 counties. According to a recent study, the Port of Mobile holds \$85 million worth of annual statewide economic impact, generating 312,896 jobs across Alabama. Further investment in the Port will serve to increase its overall impact on the state economy.

Therefore, I ask for your full and fair consideration of ASPA's application to the DOT's Maritime Administration for a PIDP grant to complete this project. My office is prepared to answer any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale W. Strong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "S".

Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress