



April 25, 2023

ATTN: Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

With this letter, I am lending my support to 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.

The project will include the removal of 203 linear of the existing retaining wall, relocating the existing retaining wall land side of the new dock structure, and constructing approximately 203 linear feet of a new dock, including a new fender system and bollards. Professional services for environmental permitting, detailed design engineering, contract document preparation, and construction management will be retained. The estimated cost of this project is \$6,159,850.

Finishing Pier D2 will support the Alabama Port Authority's long-term, strategic efforts to invest in and build out all their facilities, ensuring the highest and best use of the State's assets.

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, and 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 network of railway infrastructure. 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. Once the channel deepening and widening project is completed in early 2025, the Port of Mobile will be the deepest container terminal in the Gulf of Mexico.

With the Port's vast assets and rapid growth in mind, we support this grant funding for the completion of Pier D2 as an investment in the Port of Mobile to support Alabama's steel industry.

Coastal Alabama Partnership has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the Alabama State Port Authority and supports its efforts to continue to improve our state.

Respectfully,



Wiley C. Blankenship
President/CEO
Coastal Alabama Partnership