



May 9, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for ASPA's PIDP Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) I am writing to express our support for the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) grant application for the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's PIDP Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to increase the ASPA's capacity to continue to grow. The growth and maintenance of the Port facilities are critical to the members of PEP and our community.

PEP is a coalition of business and education leaders who share the vision of applying science-based environmental best practices to business and community issues. Our 200 member companies, including ASPA, are chemical, steel, aerospace, and other manufacturers and the vendors. Consultants, suppliers and service providers that serve them. The PEP member companies value our unique natural resources and our economy. PEP promotes a balanced view of business and industry contributions to this area by providing factual information about safety and environmental performance. Through community involvement and this conciliatory approach, we strive to build a resilient Gulf Coast.

ASPA's Pier D2 supports Alabama's steel industry and is a state-of-the-art steel coil handling facility operated by the Alabama Steel Terminals. This is an essential facility for several of PEP's member companies. However, there is an incomplete portion of this Pier D2 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 removing and relocating 203 linear feet of an existing retaining wall 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 project also has a positive environmental impact. Currently, ships carrying steel coils must unload further south and then take the coils by forklift up to the steel terminal at Pier D2.

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Having the new construction to complete the Pier D2 will reduce emissions by eliminating those moves. There is a major benefit from a risk and safety perspective to not have those heavy steel coils trucked the long distance across the docks to get up to the steel terminal. Due to the rapid growth of the Port and industries in our State, such as automotive, aerospace, and defense, all that require steel, this grant is crucial for operational efficiency and maintaining operational fluidity at the Port.

The Port is critical to our State and to the Gulf Coast. According to a 2022 economic impact study, The Port of Mobile is responsible for over \$98 billion in annual economic impact statewide, generating 351,359 jobs across Alabama.

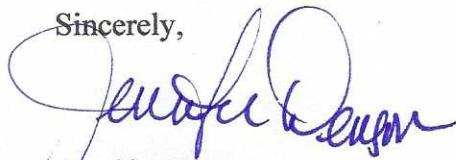
The Port is strategically located in the northern Gulf of Mexico with access to an international airport, rail systems, and two interstate systems, I-65 running north/south and I-10 running east/west. The Port's intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF), which will be an on-dock facility by 2025,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

ASPA serves all 67 counties of Alabama, and oversees the deep-water public port from 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 Mobile River and Mobile Bay channel deepening and widening project is completed in early 2025, the Port will have the deepest channel access for a container terminal on the Gulf of Mexico.

Throughout ASPA's efforts to increase capacity, the Port has routinely and thoroughly engaged its surrounding communities. 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.

We fully support ASPA's request for the grant funding for this project that is critical to PEP's member companies and the State of Alabama.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Denson  
Executive Director