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

May 10, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

With this letter, I am lending my support to the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) grant application for the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's PIDP Grant Program. If granted, the funding will be used to support the Alabama Port Authority's continued capacity growth.

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 the 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 feet 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.

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 to maintaining operational fluidity at the Port.

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 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. Moreover, the ASPA has thoroughly engaged with Port-surrounding communities throughout their efforts to grow the Port's capacity.

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 State Port Authority serves all 67 counties 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 channel deepening and widening project is completed in early 2025, the Port 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.

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

Respectfully,



Randall Dueitt
Mobile County Commission President