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May 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection
Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Re: Clean Ports Program: Zero-Emission Technology Deployment
Competition Grant Funding Opportunity: EPA-R-OAR-CPP-24-04

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing in support of the Alabama Port Authority's application for the EPA Clean Ports Grant. With this application, the Port's goal is to support the deployment of zero-emission technologies across the Port of Mobile for both its public and private terminals and launch the **Port Operations With Emissions Reduction**, or **POWER**, Program.

The grant includes the following components to help reduce carbon emissions at the Port - two electric switcher locomotives, installation of three shore power units (cold ironing) at two marine terminals, 36 electric terminal trucks, four electric container top loaders, two electric material handling cranes and two electric forklifts. This equipment will be deployed by the Port and several private operators who do business on the port - APM Terminals, Cooper Marine, SSA Marine, and CG Rail.

The Mobile County Commission believes that if the Alabama Port Authority and its project partners are selected for the Clean Ports grant, it will be an investment that will enable the Port to bolster its longstanding commitment to sustainability and further contribute to the goals of companies located around the Port of Mobile in reducing climate impacts. With this collective, Port-wide application, the POWER Program will benefit communities surrounding the Port and give citizens the opportunity to achieve a healthier quality of life for generations to come.

Thank you for considering the Alabama Port Authority's application for this opportunity.

Sincerely,


Mobile County Commission
Randall Dueitt, President



BACKGROUND

The Port of Mobile is the only deep-water port in Alabama and consistently moves 50+ million tons of cargo each year. The Port has a significant economic impact on the state of Alabama, with a total economic impact of \$98.3 billion in 2022 alone in addition to over 350,000 direct and indirect jobs and more than \$2.4 billion in direct and indirect tax impacts. ASPA owns the public terminals at the Port of Mobile, on 4,000 acres with more than 30 berths that provide import and export services for containerized, bulk, breakbulk, Ro-Ro, and heavy lift cargoes and is also home to private bulk terminal operators and the fastest-growing container terminal facility in the United States.

The Port currently has more than \$1 billion in capital projects underway statewide. The Port Authority will nearly double its cargo handling capacity upon completing an expansion currently underway at the container terminal. In addition to the terminal expansion and the harbor deepening and widening project, the Alabama Port Authority plans to develop logistics facilities in Mobile and open two new inland intermodal facilities served by CSX in both Decatur and Montgomery. These projects are set to begin operation within the next two to five years and will provide new advantages and opportunities for shippers.

Other planned investments include constructing an inter-terminal connector bridge to create on-dock rail access at the container terminal and modernizing general cargo piers. These projects are primarily funded through federal budget appropriations and grants championed by former Senator Richard Shelby. In addition to federal funding, the Alabama State Legislature allocated \$20 million in 2023 to modernize the Port's McDuffie Coal Terminal. Beyond these public funding sources, the Port reinvests all revenue outside of operating expenses to improve and expand its facilities.

FAST FACTS

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT

- \$98.3B economic value delivered to Alabama in 2022 alone
- Over 350,000 jobs created by Port of Mobile operations
- \$2.4B state and local tax impact

NATIONAL ASSET

- Recently named second fastest growing port in the U.S. by Forbes
- \$52B+ economic value delivered outside of Alabama in 2022
- 50-foot depth by 2025 | Deeper than Savannah (-47) and the deepest container port in the Gulf
- Connectivity into Chicago within 3 days
- 5 Class I Railroads and 3 Short-line Railroads
- East-West (I-10) and North-South (I-65) interstate routes
- Near-dock international airport

DIVERSE CAPABILITIES

- The Port of Mobile serves both containerized and bulk/breakbulk commodities
- All piers on the general cargo facility at the Port of Mobile are rail served
- Home to a one-of-its-kind rail ferry service that transits between Mobile and Mexico
- Third largest coal handling facility in the United States

CONTAINERIZED CARGO

- Two new super-post-panamax cranes for a total of six cranes (4 post and 2 super-post) by 2025
- Turn times for drop-off and pick-up of containerized cargo are under an hour (nationwide, turn time average is 2-3 hours)
- On-dock intermodal rail service in 2025