



MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

May 24, 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 on behalf of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) 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.

MBNEP's purpose is to encourage a community-based approach to watershed management by partnering with stakeholders to address local environmental challenges. In this capacity, a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan 2013-2018 (CCMP) has been developed outlining objectives to improve estuary conditions and educate communities to better manage coastal Alabama's natural resources. The proposed project addresses the 2013-2018 CCMP Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TAC-3.4) *Advocate for the assessment, improvements, and designation of estuary ports as "Green Ports."*

As the 2nd fastest growing U.S. seaport and with the Port of Mobile being Alabama's only deepwater port, the Alabama State Port Authority is a key stakeholder in protecting what people value most about living on the Alabama coast: Access to the water, healthy populations of fish and wildlife, environmental health and resiliency, protecting the area's heritage, healthy shorelines, and most important, water quality.

The MBNEP supports this grant funding for the launch of the POWER Program. With vast assets and rapid growth in mind, this Program is an investment in a resilient, sustainable Port.

My office has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the Alabama State Port Authority and supports its efforts to continue to improve our state. Thank you for considering the Alabama Port Authority's application for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberta Swann".

Roberta Swann