

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write today regarding the Port of Virginia's application to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) 2021 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) to develop Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT) in Portsmouth, Virginia, as a hub for offshore wind development on the East Coast. If awarded, the funds will support development of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) commercial project – a 2.6 gigawatt offshore wind project in federal waters off Virginia's coast – along with other offshore wind projects planned or in development along the East Coast. Funding will also increase safety, improve efficiency, and increase the reliability of the movement of goods, while supporting economic vitality, addressing climate change and environmental justice impacts, and advancing racial equity and reducing barriers to opportunity.

The Port of Virginia serves as a catalyst for commerce throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. The Port is one of Virginia's most powerful economic engines. On an annual basis, it is responsible for nearly 400,000 jobs and \$92 billion in spending across the Commonwealth and generates 7.5 percent of Virginia's Gross State Product. To expand its commercial impact, the Port seeks to use this funding to construct three separate wharf areas for different offshore wind components, a staging area for preparation of loadout, two separate storage areas, and dredging to support Mediterranean Mooring of the monopile foundation transportation vessels. These improvements will allow PMT to serve as a staging port for offshore wind projects up-and-down the Mid-Atlantic region and provide for easy transport by Jones Act compliant wind turbine installation vessels to the project sites.

An economic impact study performed by Mangum Economics, projects that the CVOW commercial project could create approximately 900 jobs, nearly \$5 million per year in local and state tax revenue, and \$143 million in economic impact annually during construction. During operation, it is estimated that the CVOW commercial project could create approximately 1,100 jobs, \$11 million per year in local and state tax revenue, and almost \$210 million in economic impact annually. However, these benefits may not be fully realized if there is no local staging port available. Investment in PMT is critical to the job creation potential for the offshore wind projects in the Mid-Atlantic region and for reaching the Biden administration's goal of developing 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2030.

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Each component of the project is prepared for construction and can be immediately executed with assistance through the PIDP. We are confident this investment will have a positive economic impact on Virginia and states along the East Coast, and we ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration.

Thank you for your service on behalf of our constituents. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen, modernize, and improve our nation's maritime systems

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

/s/

TIM KAINÉ
United States Senator



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



ROBERT J. WITTMAN
Member of Congress

/s/

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

/s/

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress

/s/

A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress

/s/

ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress

/s/

ABIGAIL SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

/s/

JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress