

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of the Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write to bring your attention to the Port of Virginia's application to the 2020 Port Infrastructure Development Discretionary Grants Program to increase on-terminal rail capacity at their Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) facility in Norfolk, Virginia. If awarded, the funds will help increase safety, improve efficiency, and increase the reliability of the movement of goods. We ask for your full and fair consideration.

The Port of Virginia is one of the Commonwealth's most powerful economic engines. On an annual basis, the Port is responsible for nearly 400,000 jobs and \$92 billion in spending across our Commonwealth and generates 7.5% of our Gross State Product.

The Port of Virginia serves as a catalyst for commerce throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. To expand its commercial impact, the Port seeks to use this funding to optimize its central rail yard at NIT. The Port's arrival and departure of cargo by rails is the largest of any port on the East Coast, and the proposed optimization will involve the construction of two new rail bundles containing four tracks each for a total of more than 10,000 additional feet of working track. This project will improve efficiency, allow more cargo to move through the facility, improve the safety of operation, remove more trucks from the highways, and generate additional economic development throughout the region.

The Port of Virginia is the only U.S. East Coast port with Congressional authorizations for 55-foot channels. This project adds to the Port's capacity and increases its ability to safely handle the largest ships in the Atlantic trade, while ensuring sustainable growth throughout its network. Holistic in nature, this project provides for the projected growth in cargo capacity while increasing safety and efficiency of cargo moving through the facility.

Each component of the project is prepared for construction and can be rapidly executed with Port Infrastructure Development grant assistance. We are confident that this investment will have a positive economic impact on Virginia, and we ask that you give this proposal every consideration. Thank you for your service on behalf of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Denver L. Riggleman III
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress