



June 22, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals (IRPT) is writing to you in support of Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's Port Infrastructure Development Program, Small Project at Small Ports grant program application, where the grant will fund their Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project.

The Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project will impact a four-state region and addresses several critical needs related to aging infrastructure and equipment. The Paducah-McCracken County Riverport is important to the region as their location is geographically convenient to move goods and materials to various initiatives. Specific to construction, they currently support several projects such as I-24 reconstruction and the Army Corps of Engineers' Kentucky Lock Addition Project. As additional projects gain funding support, it is anticipated that the Paducah McCracken County Riverport will become an even more integral part of logistics for this area.

Furthermore, this project will improve the competitive advantage of the riverport by improving its ability to increase efficiencies of moving commodities through the system. This advantage will ultimately provide a reduction in cost to transport goods and increase the ability to reliably supply materials for projects.

Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals, Inc. (IRPT) is a non-profit trade association with over 330 members nationwide. IRPT advocates for our nation's inland waterways and the industries and companies that serve and utilize our inland rivers, ports and terminals.

This project will yield significant long-term economic benefits and positively impact the future of transportation in this country. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

Aimee Andres

Aimee Andres
Executive Director