

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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July 27, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to inform you of my support of Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's Port Infrastructure Development Program application to be considered for the Small Project at Small Ports grant program. The grant will fund the authority's Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project.

The Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project will impact a four-state region and address several critical needs related to aging infrastructure and equipment. The Paducah-McCracken County Riverport is important to the region as its location is geographically convenient to move goods and materials for local agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and to other various initiatives. Specific to construction, the authority currently supports several projects such as I-24 reconstruction, Smithland Bridge reconstruction, and the U.S. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's application. Please contact Kentucky State Representative Walker Thomas at 270-889-8091 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walker W. Thomas".

Walker Thomas
State Representative
District 8

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