

# Commonwealth of Kentucky

STATE SENATE

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SENATOR WHITNEY H. WESTERFIELD

June 24, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Paducah-McCracken County, Kentucky, Riverport Authority's Port Infrastructure Development Program application to be considered for the Small Project at Small Ports grant program. 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 destinations. Specific to construction, they currently support several projects such as the 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. The district I serve is several counties removed from Paducah and McCracken County, but the economic impact of the Riverport is no less pronounced and significant. Long standing and dedicated industrial citizens in the Pennyrile region are directly served by the Riverport Authority; the river is one of the Commonwealth's most vital pillars of commerce.

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's application. If I can be of any help on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whitney H. Westerfield".

Whitney H. Westerfield  
State Senator, 3rd District

WHW/lbh