



07 July 2021

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority supports the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program for the Small Ports Grant Program. This grant will fund their 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 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway region as their location is geographically convenient to move goods and materials. Specific to construction, they currently support several projects such as I-24 reconstruction and the Army Corps of Engineers' Kentucky Lock Addition Project. The Paducah McCracken County Riverport is and will become an even more integral part of logistics for the Tenn-Tom Waterway Region.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority was authorized by the U.S. Congress for the purpose of promoting the waterway's economic development and trade potential. It is also the regional non-federal sponsor of the waterway. The compact is comprised of the States of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee and the governors of these states serve as members of the waterway authority. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is a vital part of the Nation's inland waterway system that transports millions of tons of commerce each year. Its unique feature is that it connects with other waterways that serve mid-America at its northern end with sea ports, such as the Port of Mobile, along the Gulf of Mexico through its southern terminus.

Paducah-McCracken RiverPort Support Letter

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

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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's application. Please contact Mitch Mays at (662) 328-3286 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitchell B. Mays". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mitchell B. Mays

Administrator