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July 19, 2021

The Honorable Lucinda Lessley
Acting Administrator, DOT Maritime
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Honorable Lessley:

I am writing regarding the application submitted by the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority (PM CRA) for the Port Infrastructure Development Grant program.

PM CRA is uniquely located at the confluence of four major rivers and four states, making it an ideal location for federal investments in infrastructure revitalization and expansion projects. As Paducah and the surrounding area continue to see increasing waterway traffic, this project will allow PM CRA to meet the region's needs and establish a stable supply chain for American products, especially those used in the area's growing construction and agriculture industries.

Receiving this funding would update equipment to increase capacity and address the Riverport's efficiency for moving bulk commodities. Equipment modernization will reduce emissions and decrease queue times, while expanding the bulk yard will increase the current tonnage capacity to accommodate for new commodities, products, and customers. Due to the Riverport's strategic location at the center of the inland waterway system, this project will help Kentucky shippers operate more effectively while also improving the shipping needs of other customers and operators on the Marine Highway System.

PM CRA has seen an outpouring of support from public and private organizations, including the City of Paducah, McCracken County, and four of the Riverport's customers. These community and industry leaders recognize the necessity of this expansion project for the region.

As Congressman for the 1st District of Kentucky, I am supportive of these efforts, which will provide the region with enhanced access to waterway connections that would benefit this deserving region for years to come. I look forward to continuing to work with these constituents to modernize our nation's infrastructure and foster further economic growth in the 1st District of Kentucky.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of their proposal consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please contact my Legislative Correspondent, Mary-Carter Downing (mary-carter.downing@mail.house.gov), if I may be of further support throughout this process.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Member of Congress