



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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May 25, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority has applied for a Small Project at Small Ports grant through the Port Infrastructure Development Program in pursuit of funding for their Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project. I am writing to inform of my full support for their application.

The Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project will contribute to the economic vitality of the region and addresses several critical needs related to aging infrastructure and equipment that have reached their end-of-life cycle. The project will replace three radial stackers, one radial hopper, two storage dome roofs, and provide a 30,000 square foot concrete laydown area that will reduce potential environmental hazards to the river, creeks, and streams near the site. Expansion related items will greatly benefit the riverport, with the addition of a large truck scale, steel frame and tarp canopy system, three transfer ground conveyors, one radial stacker, and four generators to supply power, as necessary.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is comprised of 1,100 miles of navigable waterways and Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority is a part of our public ports network that service these routes. The Commonwealth depends on our riverports as hubs for various industries, resulting as a benefit to our economy, and providing a clean and safe alternative to transportation of goods and commodities. The Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority

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is uniquely positioned to have a significant impact, where their catchment area spans multiple states. Commodities are transported to approximately thirty counties within Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee.

As infrastructure funding is distributed on the federal and state levels, it is anticipated that the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport will see an increase in transporting construction related materials, as they already provide materials for projects within their region, such as the reconstruction of Interstate 24 near Cadiz, Kentucky, and the United States Army Corps of Engineer's Kentucky Lock Addition Project. The Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project puts the riverport in position to support the supply chain required to meet these infrastructure construction demands in the future. Furthermore, this project will improve the competitive advantage of the riverport by improving its ability to increase efficiencies of moving cost through the system. This advantage will ultimately provide a reduction in cost to transport goods and increase the ability to supply materials for projects.

The Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority has spent significant time working with commodity business partners, equipment suppliers and professional service firms to conduct a thorough review of existing equipment and facilities, and the Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project is a result of their efforts. The award of the grant would sustain existing businesses and provide an opportunity for growth in the Western Kentucky region and along our river network throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of Paducah-McCracken County Riverport's application. Please contact Debra Gall in my office at 502.209.2104 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Andy Beshear  
Governor