

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27th, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We write to respectfully request your attention and due consideration to ensuring that America's ports are provided at least 25% of the \$600 million appropriated by the Congress for National Infrastructure Investments. As you know, Division A, Title I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-117) funds capital investments for a variety of transportation projects including but not limited to highway or bridge construction, transit projects, or port infrastructure investments. This investment by Congress builds off the \$1.5 billion invested into a National Infrastructure Investment discretionary grant for the Secretary of Transportation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

We make this request because we are concerned that port infrastructure investments were greatly overlooked in the recent awarding of the \$1.5 billion discretionary grant (TIGER Grant) from the Recovery Act. Of the TIGER grants awarded, only 8% went to seaport infrastructure improvements. This is deeply troubling to us as we had understood that ports would be given an adequate opportunity to compete for the discretionary grant funds. Furthermore, the only source of funding for ports in the Recovery Act was through the TIGER grant process. Highways, transit, high-speed rail, and other transportation projects had other funding sources under the Recovery Act and through Highway Trust Fund formula accounts. As such, we had expected that ports would be given more consideration in the TIGER grant program.

Ports across the United States are critical links to our nation's trading partners. For example, ports account for 99.4% of U.S. overseas trade by volume and 64.1% of trade by value. Moreover, a more direct impact of ports is that they provide 13.3 million jobs, accounting for \$649 billion in personal income and more than \$3.15 trillion in marine cargo-related spending. It is clear that ports are critical to our nation's economic well being and their infrastructure investment needs should not be overlooked or discounted. The economic downturn, coupled with increasing costs of port infrastructure projects, necessitates robust support from the Federal government.

The \$600 million in National Infrastructure Investments discretionary grant is the right opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation to demonstrate its

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
April 27th, 2010
Page Two of Three

commitment to our ports – a vital component of our nation’s economic recovery. To reiterate, at a minimum, we hope the Department of Transportation will provide 25% of the Fiscal Year 2010 discretionary funding to our nation’s ports. There are clear and evident needs in our ports across the country that must be adequately addressed in a more timely fashion. We appreciate your attention to and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



RODNEY ALEXANDER
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



ANH J. CAO
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



MIKE CASTLE
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
April 27th, 2010
Page Three of Three



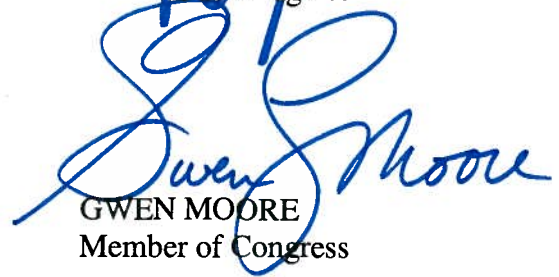
RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Member of Congress



RON PAUL
Member of Congress



PEDRO PIERLUISI
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable David T. Matsuda, Acting Administrator, Maritime Administration