



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The American Great Lakes Ports Association represents the public port authorities on the United States side of the Great Lakes. Each of our member port agencies is a division of state or local government, or an independent agency created by state statute. As a group, and individually, Great Lakes ports work to foster maritime commerce in the region and economic development in their communities.

A 2018 economic impact analysis concluded that the Great Lakes navigation system supports 237,000 jobs and \$35 billion of economic activity in the United States and Canada. Recognizing the importance of this critical trade route, both nations have invested billions modernizing navigation infrastructure such as locks, channels, breakwaters and jetties. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation has invested more than \$100 million to modernize its navigation locks on the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The Department's Port Infrastructure Development Grant program will further this work by helping port managers address local infrastructure needs.

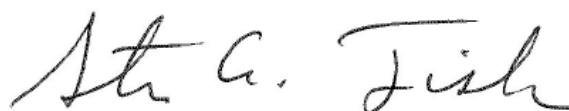
Unlike coastal ports, the Great Lakes are an integrated and interconnected navigation system. The success of each port helps ensure the viability of the others. For that reason, the American Great Lakes Ports Association is pleased to support the application submitted by Port Milwaukee for a Port Infrastructure Development Grant. Requested funds will be utilized to establish an Agricultural Maritime Export Facility specifically focused on export of DDGs, a byproduct of the distilling process.

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We urge the Department to give this project strong consideration. We further urge the Department to ensure that smaller ports such as those on the Great Lakes receive a fair share of overall grant funds.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve A. Fisher". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Steven A. Fisher
Executive Director