



September 12, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express support and request consideration of Port Milwaukee's grant application to establish a first-of-its-kind trade lane for the worldwide export of Dry Distillers Grain with Solubles (DDGs) via deep-draft shipping on the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) system. Port Milwaukee's *Agricultural Maritime Export Facility* project directly fulfills all qualifications for the U.S. Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Grant (PIDG) Program, including:

- Implementing a broad range of improvements at one of Wisconsin's most commercially productive seaports;
- Modernizing the safety of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure;
- Enhancing multimodal efficiency in southeastern Wisconsin;
- Improving the reliability of the movement of goods; and
- Promoting the unloading and loading of cargoes and freight and at the Port.

As currently envisioned, Port Milwaukee's project seeks to:

- Export at least \$40 million of DDGs through the Port;
- Establish the newest transload facility on the Great Lakes for loading of Seawaymax vessels;
- Expand Wisconsin's agribusiness access to international markets;
- Improve market access for ethanol by-products produced in Wisconsin and throughout the Upper Midwest;
- Provide for an estimated 50,000 work hours supporting construction of the new Port facilities;
- Create at least 8 full-time jobs in Wisconsin; and
- Enhance revenue-generating potential for corn and soybean producers in Wisconsin and other farmers throughout the Upper Midwest.

In summary, I strongly support Port Milwaukee's PIDG application for the proposed *Agricultural Maritime Export Facility* project. This development will greatly enhance and improve the multimodal transportation system in Wisconsin, will enable regional economic growth, and increase export traffic via the GLSLS, including the USDOT-operated Seaway locks in Massena, New York.

COLLINS ENGINEERS^{INC}

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Thank you for considering this project and the benefits it will bring to Wisconsin's transportation system as well as to farmers, growers, workers, and other businesses throughout the region.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Collins
Collins Engineers, Inc.
Executive Vice President

cc: Mark H. Buzby; Administrator, Maritime Administration
 Craig H. Middlebrook; Deputy Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation