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May 10, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write in support of Port of Port Angeles's U.S. Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant proposal. The Port is seeking funding for improvements to its Intermodal Handling and Transfer (IHT) facility located at the Port of Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state.

The Olympic Peninsula has historically been a center for timber harvest and lumber manufacturing from public and private lands. However, its remote location and lack of rail limits logistical options for transporting product onto and off the Peninsula for domestic manufacturing.

The IHT facility is the only industrial facility with a water interface on the Olympic Peninsula that can process whole logs coming from Canada and Alaska. The IHT facility also moves logs from the Peninsula to manufacturers elsewhere in Washington state and Oregon using maritime (barge) transportation. The IHT facility is a vital part of the freight-transportation infrastructure on the Olympic Peninsula, through its barging and log-rafting capability, and directly supports domestic manufacturing, timber industry jobs, and economic development throughout the region. The living wage jobs the IHT supports, both directly and indirectly, have a profound impact on the citizens of Clallam County, where more than 15% of the population lives below the poverty line.

The Port's proposed project will improve the IHT facility's efficiency and increase its barging capacity. In turn, this will provide a safer, more reliable, and cost-effective option for freight transportation to support domestic manufacturing in Washington and Oregon. Importantly, a recent carbon emissions study shows that barge transportation to and from Port Angeles to domestic manufacturers emits 76% less carbon when compared to long-haul trucking. And while the study did not analyze impacts to road maintenance or traffic flow, it did reveal that barge transportation to these markets reduces 600,000 miles of truck use on roads and highways.

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Again, I am pleased to write in support of Port of Port Angeles's proposal for PIDP funding and urge your full and fair consideration. This investment will enhance economic activity, improve the transportation network that connects the remote northern Olympic Peninsula community to domestic forest product markets, and reduce the environmental impact over alternative transportation methods. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrea Roper in my district office at [Andrea.Roper@mail.house.gov](mailto:Andrea.Roper@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress