

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We strongly support the Tulsa Ports' application for the Port the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) to reconstruct the Ports' main towboat dock in the slack-water harbor. Tulsa Ports is an important economic driver for the State of Oklahoma and our inland ports are critical to the State's participation in commercial activities on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) and a key connection in our national supply chain.

The Tulsa Ports' Catoosa location is a multi-modal shipping complex with over 2,500 acres of industrial park space, hosting 70 companies and supporting almost 3,000 livable-wage jobs. The Port accounts for \$300 million in economic activity each year across a variety of sectors including agricultural commodities, building materials, and petroleum products. The Ports' main towboat dock in the slack-water harbor has been rendered functionally obsolete and needs to be replaced. While the expiration of the dock's intended useful life was already on the horizon, its condition was significantly worsened by extreme flooding in 2019, which damaged infrastructure in many places along the Oklahoma portion of the MKARNS. This project would improve the resiliency of the port and increase adaptability to unexpected events, such as supply chain disruptions.

We are encouraged that Tulsa Ports has been working alongside regional stakeholders, including the Grand Gateway Economic Development Association, to build a coalition of support for this project, as it will not be possible to complete this project without federal assistance.

The development and resiliency of Oklahoma's marine infrastructure is one of the Oklahoma Delegation's top priorities this Congress, and we appreciate your strong consideration of this application. Please contact Victor Sarmiento, on my staff, at [victor\\_sarmiento@inhofe.senate.gov](mailto:victor_sarmiento@inhofe.senate.gov) if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator