



Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc.

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Rediscover the *strength* of America's Inland Rivers

April 29, 2022

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

Subject: ODOT application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc. (IRPT), I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant to assist with the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Mooring Modernization Project. The proposed improvements to mooring structures at critical locations on the MKARNS waterway are both necessary and urgent to provide overall safety within the MKARNS network and improve reliability of freight movement to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

IRPT commends the Department of Transportation for its support of maritime transportation businesses and focused attention on transportation from farm or manufacturer to market. This project will yield significant long-term economic benefits and positively impact the future of transportation in this country.

Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. (IRPT) is a nationwide trade association composed of ports, terminals, users, and suppliers of the U.S. Inland Waterway system. IRPT promotes the use of our nation's rivers as the most cost effective, and environmentally friendly form of transportation.

IRPT, strongly supports the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Mooring Modernization Project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. We strongly urge your full funding for the project.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Aimee Andres

Aimee Andres
Executive Director