

JAMES LANKFORD
OKLAHOMA

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5754

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ETHICS
INTELLIGENCE
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 10, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) grant application, in partnership with the Port of Muskogee and Tulsa Ports, to the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Barge Safety & Efficiency Improvement Project will improve the safety and reliability of mariners and freight movement through Eastern Oklahoma.

The MKARNS is a vital part of the nation's inland waterway system, connecting Oklahoma to the Mississippi River and beyond. The 445-mile-long marine highway serves 12 states in the region and allows for the transfer of freight from barge to truck or rail. Millions of tons of commerce are transported through the system each year which increases the need to update and improve the existing infrastructure.

The addition of new mooring structures in the waterway will ensure that safety and efficiency are prioritized at our Oklahoma Ports. The project's replacing of existing barge tie-down structures, which were unable to safely anchor barges during recent flooding, will improve the MKARNS' ability to withstand future potentially devastating events. This project would ultimately improve the resiliency and adaptability of the ports despite unforeseen events, such as flooding or supply chain interruptions.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) grant application for funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). Please contact my office should you need any further assistance as you consider this important proposal.

In God We Trust,



James Lankford
United States Senator for Oklahoma