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Chuck Hoskin Jr.

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Bryan Warner

Deputy Principal Chief
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April 25, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Cherokee Nation Letter of Support; USDOT Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I am pleased to convey our support for Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports as they pursue funding through the USDOT Port of Infrastructure Development Program grant. Cherokee Nation is the largest tribe in the United States, with more than 462,060 tribal citizens worldwide, and with many tribal communities near the Port of Muskogee and Tulsa Ports. As a sovereign government and economic engine, Cherokee Nation invests in our region to create the conditions for growth for our citizens and companies. We are committed to protecting our inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting Cherokee culture, language and values, and to improving the quality of life for future generations of Cherokee Nation citizens.

The proposed project seeks to modernize and improve critical mooring infrastructure supporting commerce on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. MKARNS is vital to the economy of the Cherokee Nation and the region, supporting over 22,000 jobs and moving millions of tons of cargo for national and international commerce. It is imperative that our port partners maintain modern, safe, and efficient mooring structures and cargo infrastructure along the MKARNS. We applaud their collaborative effort to pursue this grant to ensure that waterborne commerce remains safe, efficient, and cost-effective deep in the heart of the US and deep in the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee Nation continues to play an integral role in the economic development of our region and wherever our people call home. In addition to our government-to-government relationship with the federal government, our relationships with partners like Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports demonstrate how, working side by side, we are collaborating to improve the lives of all our citizens and neighbors. This is our home, and we value our long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with our regional partners in economic development and industry like the Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports. We stand ready to work alongside you to grow and sustain the regional economy and high-quality employment opportunities. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions which you may have or if my team or I may be of further assistance to you.

On behalf of the organization, I offer our full support of this application. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Rhonda Clemons, Director of Grant Services, at grants@cherokee.org.

Respectfully,

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., *Principal Chief*
Cherokee Nation