

April 25, 2024

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

**Re: Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) – Letter of Support for Tulsa Port- Muskogee Port**

On behalf of the City of Muskogee, I am writing to express our strong support for the MKARNS Moorings Modernization Project and to request that you consider Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports collaborative application for the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant (PIDP).

As you are aware, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) plays a vital role in the economic development of our city, state, and nation. The MKARNS is the primary navigable waterway in the State of Oklahoma, connecting us to more than a 20-state service area with various domestic ports along the U.S. inland waterways system and connecting us to foreign ports by way of New Orleans and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The MKARNS Mooring Modernization Project is a critical infrastructure project that will enable safe harbor for mariners, increase reliability of structures in the event of a flood, and prepare Tulsa and Muskogee ports for the forecasted increases in freight demand through the MKARNS segment in Oklahoma. As you know, Port Muskogee was awarded a \$24 million PIDP Grant in 2022 for critical waterfront infrastructure, and we strongly believe that the mooring structure modernization is critical to its future as well.

The City of Muskogee fully supports this Oklahoma Ports effort and the MKARNS Moorings Modernization Project. This project will provide mooring replacement structures that will better support forecasted freight demands, reduce safety risks by replacing obsolete anchorage systems, help protect Oklahoma's infrastructure and economy during flooding events, and better maintain a state of good repair in the waterway while minimizing maintenance costs.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.



W. Patrick Cale,  
Mayor of the City of Muskogee