

ILA 1694-1
Port of Wilmington, Delaware 19801

May 29, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20539

RE: PORT OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE'S TIGER V GRANT REQUEST

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to be writing to you in support of the Diamond State Port Corporation/ Port of Wilmington's request of a \$8.4 million TIGER V grant for the rehabilitation of Berth 5 and Berth 6; two extremely important perishable cargo break bulk berths at the port on the Christina River and which serve large, modern refrigerated warehouses which are immediately adjacent. The Port of Wilmington's operations generated over 4300 direct indirect and induced jobs as well as over 12,500 related jobs on an annual basis. These cargo handling activities resulted in excess of \$330 million in annual direct business revenue, \$325 million in wages and salary and 30 million dollars in state and local taxes. The Port is a major economic engine for the state of Delaware.

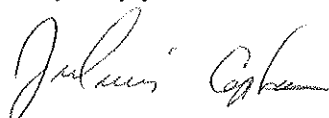
I am Julius Cephas, president of International Longshoreman's Association Local 1694-1 at the Port of Wilmington Delaware. I represent 185 union members who handle cargo to and from ships, into and out of warehouses and outdoor storage locations, and eventually onto or off of trucks and railcars for delivery. On an annual basis the port routinely provides in excess of 300,000 labor hours of direct employment to my membership. Their future employment and the well-being of their families is tied to the ability of the Port's infrastructure to continue handle the 4 million tons of cargo that annually pass over its docks.

Like much of the infrastructure in the mid-Atlantic region theirs is in need of rehabilitation. Providing this grant would be just the type of support that President Obama had envisioned when he introduced the TIGER grant program. This project is "shovel ready", has the commitment of the Port to invest \$5 million of its limited capital, it will create and sustain hundreds of good paying jobs both during and after the completion of this project, upon which my membership depends. And, finally, it will provide significant improvement to the ageing infrastructure of this very important marine terminal.

The Honorable Ray LaHood
May 29, 2013
Page 2

Thank you for giving serious consideration to our request for DOT's award of the requested TIGER V grant to the Port of Wilmington, Delaware.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julius Cephas".

Julius Cephas
President