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May 20, 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:

We are 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 important perishable cargo break bulk berths at the port which serve large, modern refrigerated warehouses which are immediately adjacent.

The Port of Wilmington is the largest perishable cargo destination for imports in the United States. It is the second largest tropical fruit port in the world, and a very important member of our logistics supply chain in the US. Jac Vandenberg, Inc. is a current and long term customer of Wilmington. From this port we are able to cost effectively supply retailers and consumers throughout the United States and Canada. We have selected Wilmington for a number of commercial and economic reasons critical among those are its infrastructure and its consistent ability to support our growing, commercially significant and labor intensive imported produce business.

For the import business segment to be successful we need ports such as Wilmington. It is strategically located in the middle of the consumer-rich, mid-Atlantic region and from this port we can serve millions of customers with overnight truck and rail delivery. 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 project that President Obama had envisioned when he introduced the TIGER grant program. This project is shovel ready and the Port has committed 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, and finally, it will significantly improve the infrastructure of this very important marine terminal.

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,

Eduard G. Paap
Treasurer