



**Fresh Fruit Company**

*Port of Wilmington, Lumber Road, Wilmington, DE 19899*

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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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Dole Fresh Fruit Company (Dole) strongly endorses and supports the Diamond State Port Corporation's (DSPC) application for a US Department of Transportation FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant (TIGER V). The DSPC is the owner and operator of the Port of Wilmington, Delaware.

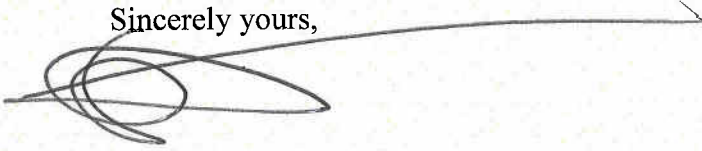
Dole was founded in Hawaii in 1851 and with 2010 revenues of \$6.9 billion, it is the world's largest producer and marketer of high-quality fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. During the period 1982-1989 Dole consolidated its North Atlantic operations at the Port of Wilmington and made significant financial investments in marine terminal improvements and building new ships to facilitate a timely and cost effective distribution strategy for supplying North American consumers with bananas, pineapples and other tropical fruit. Wilmington is Dole's largest port in North America and it weekly receives and distributes close to 1 million 40 pound boxes of fruit. In addition Dole is one of the largest employers at the Port.

This critically needed maritime infrastructure funding will aid the DSPC to rehabilitate the Port's Berths #5 and #6 and thereby increase their load carrying capacity. This successful and timely completion of this project is vital to the uninterrupted flow of international commerce on the Delaware River and to the Port's ability to support Dole's logistics requirements while simultaneously meeting the diverse maritime needs of their customer base.

The Port of Wilmington is a very important participant in the economy and in waterborne commerce within the tri-state region. It is worthy to note that in calendar year 2012 the port handled over 4 million tons of cargo. Also, based on a recent study the Port's operations generated over 4,300 direct, induced and indirect jobs as well as over 12,500 related jobs with shippers and consignees for the same year. These cargo handling activities resulted in excess of \$337 million in direct business revenue, \$315 million in personal income and \$31 million in state and local taxes.

Dole Fresh Fruit Company enthusiastically supports the DSPC grant application. A TIGER V Grant will enable this niche port to meet Dole's current and future commercial and logistics requirements and to sustain its key supply chain role for the North American consuming market as the largest port in the US for imported perishable cargo. Thank you for your kind consideration of their request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stuart Jablon  
Vice President, Operations