



June 1, 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,

Murphy Marine Services (MMS) is a stevedore and terminal operator that provides service to the shipping industry at the Port of Wilmington, DE. The Port is owned and operated by the Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC) and we are writing to voice our support for their application for a \$10 million grant under the US Department of Transportation's FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants (TIGER V) program. These funds will be used to rehabilitate and upgrade the load bearing capacity of Berths 5 and 6 at the Port of Wilmington. This project will cost approximately \$14 million in total and its completion is crucial in order for the Port and MMS to maintain their current customer base as well as attract new business.

Wharf Unit 1 (Berths #5 and #6) is a marginal wharf structure, originally constructed around 1922. It has undergone major rehabilitations in 1953 and 1977. As a result of previous evaluations conducted in 1974, 2000 and 2006, DSPC is aware that structural components of this unit exhibit deterioration of various degrees and are in need of replacement. Through a competitive bid process the DSPC has already retained a marine engineering firm to design the rehabilitation of the aforementioned berths.

These berths cover 31,600 sf of dock area and are extremely important as they are the 2 of 7 berths along the Christina River, which handle general cargo and are very labor intensive. Cargoes handled include juice concentrate and fruit from Argentina, Moroccan clementines, palletized bananas and pineapples, livestock loadings, bulk commodities in "super sacks" and the importation of Saturn II rocket booster cores. MMS employs members of the International Longshoreman's Association, providing high paying blue collar jobs, which pay from \$20.00 to \$32.00 per hour, and provide health benefits. The berths scheduled for rehabilitation are used to handle cargo which helps generate many of the 400,000 man hours worked in Wilmington.



Murphy Marine Services, Inc.

Following completion of this project the DSPC will be better able to maintain its cargo handling leadership position with the aforementioned cargos thereby preserving and increasing the very important related jobs.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

John P. Coulahan
President