



PHILADELPHIA ■ CAMDEN ■ WILMINGTON

# DELAWARE RIVER STEVEDORES, INC.

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May 21, 2013

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

RE: FY2013 Tiger V Discretionary Grants  
Port of Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write to you on behalf of the Diamond State Port Corporation's (DSPC) application for a \$8.4 million grant under the Department of Transportation's Tiger V Program. The purpose of this grant is for the rehabilitation of two break-bulk berths which are crucial to the operations in the Port of Wilmington. Berth 5 and Berth 6 had improvements last performed in 1953 and 1977, but now require structural repairs in order to avoid severely restricting cargo handling capabilities. The additional \$5 million of capital needed for the project will be made by the DSPC.

The Port of Wilmington, Delaware is a major, active international port. Based on a recent economic impact study, Port operations generated over 4,300 direct, induced and indirect jobs as well as over 12,500 industry related jobs on an annual basis. These employees handled over 5 million tons of cargo last year.

The grant application has received the whole-hearted support of all stakeholders of the port including the Governor and the entire Congressional Delegation from Delaware along with local and labor leaders.

As president of Delaware River Stevedores, Inc., I can tell you personally that our survival as a private stevedoring company working at public terminals along the Delaware River depends on safe and adequate berths. We employ members of the International Longshoremen's Association. We are significant minority employers in the City of Wilmington.

Without the proposed reconstruction and repair of the berths in Wilmington, those jobs could be in jeopardy. I urge the favorable consideration of the DSPC's application and stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Palaima  
President