

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Thomas P. Gordon
County Executive



87 Read's Way
New Castle, DE 19720

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE

May 24, 2013

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

RE: Diamond State Port Corporation TIGER V Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

Please accept this letter in support of the Diamond State Port Corporation's (DSPC), TIGER V grant application. DSPC is applying for an 8.4 million grant to reconstruct Berth 5 and Berth 6; two break-bulk berths on the Christina River, immediately adjacent to our dockside reefer warehouses, and used almost exclusively for imported fruit. Projected total cost of this project is 13.4 million with the remaining capital provided by the DSPC. This request is very similar to their 2012 TIGER IV grant request.

The Port of Wilmington is a very important economic engine for the State of Delaware. In FY 2012 it handled 4.4 million tons of cargo and it is the busiest port on the Delaware River. 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. These cargo handling activities resulted in excess of \$337 million in annual direct business revenue, \$315 million in wages and salaries and \$31 million in state and local taxes.

TIGER V offers the Port an excellent opportunity to compete for very valuable infrastructure funds which can be quickly employed to better serve the long-term marine logistics need for their customers and continue to be a source of family sustaining jobs in Delaware. In Washington, DC parlance this project is "shovel ready" as the design and permitting of the rehabilitation of Berth 5 have already been completed and a request for bids for this project will be issued shortly with work beginning and construction jobs created during this coming summer.

I send this letter to show my support for the Diamond State Port Corporation and the Port of Wilmington. These capital dollars requested by Wilmington's port are a much needed strategic capital investment in the international cargo supply-chain and will enhance the Port of Wilmington's ability to grow its business and to sustain and expand its labor base in a very competitive global marketplace.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Gordon".

Thomas P. Gordon
County Executive