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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



Dear Secretary LaHood:

I strongly endorse and support the Diamond State Port Corporation's (DSPC) application for a 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER V) Discretionary Grant.

The Port of Wilmington is a very important contributor to the economy of the City of Wilmington and State of Delaware and to waterborne commerce within the tri-state region. It is worthy to note that in calendar year 2012, the Port handled over \$4.4 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.

This critically needed maritime infrastructure funding will not only aid the DSPC in constructing and repairing the load-carrying capacity of Port Berths #5 and #6, which are vital to the uninterrupted flow of international commerce on the Delaware River, but the grant will also ensure that the organization remains a strong economic engine committed to paying its employees a respectable wage. Most importantly is the promise of continued and new employment to Wilmington's citizens, 23.4% of whom live under the poverty level and our resident workforce that have managed through several years of 20% unemployment.

If awarded a TIGER V grant, the DSPC will be able to help the Port of Wilmington maintain a competitive edge as it bids for an increased share of cargo resulting from the expansion of the Panama Canal and the future growth of global trade.

In summation, I wholeheartedly support the Diamond State Port Corporation's grant application. I believe they will be good stewards of any funds granted and will continue their important work in Wilmington. Thank you for your consideration of their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis P. Williams", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dennis P. Williams  
Mayor

Copy: Hon. Alan Levin, DSPC Chair,  
Eugene Bailey, DSPC Executive Director  
Harold Gray, Director of Economic Development, City of Wilmington