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May 27, 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 Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC), owner and operator of the Port of Wilmington, Delaware, is applying to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) for an \$8.4 million grant under its FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grants program (TIGER V) for the rehabilitation of 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.

On behalf of the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce and its 1,400 member businesses, I am writing to support this application.

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.

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 kind consideration of this letter of support for the Port of Wilmington's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kleinschmidt".

Mark Kleinschmidt, President