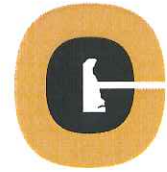


DELAWARE STATE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Hinton J. Lucas, Chairman  
Joan Verplanck, President

May 29, 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:

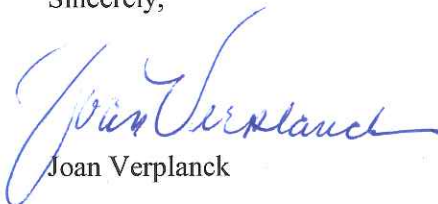
Founded in 1837 as the Wilmington Board of Trade, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce has a long history as the largest, most influential business organization in the state. The mission of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce is to promote an economic climate that strengthens the competitiveness of Delaware businesses and benefits citizens of the state.

The Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC), owner and operator of the Port of Wilmington, Delaware, (Port) is applying for a \$10 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. The projected total cost of this project is \$13.4 million with the additional \$3.4 million to be provided by the DSPC. 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.

The Port is a very important economic engine of 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 on an annual basis. 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. It has a significant effect on the State and regional residents and economies.

The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports Port's application and recommends your favorable consideration under TIGER V.

Sincerely,



Joan Verplanck