



March 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2022 RAISE application, NC Port of Wilmington New Intermodal Facility

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached New Intermodal Facility application under the FY 2022 RAISE grant program. The New Intermodal Facility project at the Port of Wilmington would help divert up to 250,000 container boxes from trucks to rail over the next decade by shifting the mode of freight transportation to rail, thereby reducing congestion and bottlenecks on the National Highway Freight Network. The Port plays a critical role in the economy of our nation and state, especially in the support of core North Carolina industry segments like furniture, forestry, protein, apparel, and textiles.

The Port of Wilmington is completing a \$250 million container yard expansion program. The requested New Intermodal Facility project is the final portion of the overall expansion plan that requires funding. The project will construct a state of the art, dedicated, and safe area for loading and discharging containers on and off the rail at the port to reduce vehicle miles traveled and support efficient transportation design. The project will construct four dedicated rail sidings, pave nearly 10 acres for movement and storage of intermodal rail cars. The project includes three specialized and dedicated reach stackers deployed to load/unload rail cars with extra reach for the inner rail track. Finally, technology system enhancements that would allow the port to convert to electric port vehicles and equipment and specialized paving for future Rail Mounted Gantry (RMG) installation to future ready the site for fully automated container rail activities.

The Intermodal Yard Improvements RAISE grant application requests \$18,054,000 in RAISE funds. The North Carolina State Ports Authority is committed to provide matching funds for the project. The total costs for the project, as submitted, are \$22,567,500 and we are committed to providing \$4,513,500 (20 percent match) as matching funds.

The New Intermodal Facility project meets the administration's goals of



reducing greenhouse gas emissions with elements to address climate change impacts, promotes energy efficiency, supports efficient transportation design and systems, incorporates future electrification port vehicles, increases resilience, incorporates lower-carbon construction materials, and reduces pollution while creating sustainable economic opportunities and the creation of good jobs while addressing environmental justice and racial equity. We look forward to your favorable consideration of the attached grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Wicker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert A. Wicker
Chairman