



May 1, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Support for North Carolina State Ports Authority's *Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths* project at the Port of Morehead City under the United States Department of Transportation's FY2024 Port Infrastructure Development grant program.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached application under the United States' Department of Transportation's FY2024 Port Infrastructure Development grant program to fund the *Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths* project at the Port of Morehead City. The Port of Morehead City is a critical gateway to the global marketplace and a PID grant for this project will help facilitate increased global trade for the nation, state, and region.

The proposed PID grant for the *Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths* project at the Port of Morehead City will rebuild the barge berths on the eastern side of the Port of Morehead in the area used by Nutrien; this investment will extend the life of the barge berths for fifty years and allow Nutrien to continue serving worldwide customers via barge and keep cargo off highways and railroads.

The *Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths* PID grant application requests \$14,921,157.20 (79 percent) for a Rural project. NC Ports is prepared to provide \$1,983,191 (10.5 percent) and Nutrien is prepared to provide \$1,983,191 (10.5 percent); please see a Memorandum of Understanding and funding commitment letter from Nutrien. NC Ports is prepared to administer all grant funding to repair and/or restore the barge berths and ensure delivery of completed barge berths.

The *Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths* project supports both regional and national economic vitality, supporting a safe, efficient, and cost-effective freight movement option for Port customers



and neighbors. This project improves infrastructure condition, promotes traffic reduction, and facilitates economic growth. We look forward to your favorable consideration of the attached grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan W. Rabon".

Susan Rabon
Chair, North Carolina State Ports Authority