



April 9, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation
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 (PID) grant program.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Nutrien, I am writing to express our strong support for the North Carolina State Ports Authority's (NC Ports) application for the United States Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development (PID) grant program to fund the modernization of the barge berths at the Port of Morehead City, North Carolina.

Nutrien leases a facility at the Port, which is owned by NC Ports, where the barge docks are located. That facility services Nutrien's phosphate mine and production facility in Aurora, NC, which moves approximately 800,000 tons of cargo through the Port via barge and vessel annually. Our Aurora plant is the largest integrated phosphate mining and chemical plant in the world and is the area's largest private employer, contributing approximately \$250 million in spending in the state in 2023 and \$8 million in state and local taxes annually.

The Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths PID grant application requests \$14,921,157.20 (79 percent) for a Rural project. Nutrien is prepared to provide \$1,983,191 (10.5 percent) and NC Ports is prepared to provide \$1,983,191 (10.5 percent), please see Memorandum of Understand and funding commitment letter from NC Ports.

To continue using the barge berths at our Port facility, the barge docks must be replaced. The proposed PID grant for the Modernization and Revitalization of Barge Berths project at the Port will rebuild the barge berths on the eastern side of the Port in the area used by Nutrien. This investment will extend the life of the barge docks for approximately 50 years, allow Nutrien to continue serving our customers worldwide, and help keep cargo off highways and railroads. The project will support regional and national economic vitality and support a safe, efficient, and cost-effective freight movement option while supporting job promotion and retention in rural eastern North Carolina.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this critically important project.

Sincerely,

William Ponton
General Manager – Aurora Phosphate Operations