



666 High Street, Suite 200-B
Worthington, OH 43085

PHONE: 614.565.8319
EMAIL: jlampert@americanwaterways.com

Justin L. Lampert
Manager – Midcontinent Office

August 3, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the American Waterways Operators (AWO), the national trade association for the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry, I am pleased to express our support for the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's (Riverport) application for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). This application, which is for the Riverport's Bulk Yard Revitalization and Expansion Project, is seeking consideration as a "small project at a small port."

The U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry is a vital segment of America's transportation system. The industry safely and efficiently moves over 760 million tons of cargo each year, including more than 60 percent of U.S. export grain, energy sources such as coal and petroleum, and other bulk commodities that are the building blocks of the U.S. economy. The fleet consists of nearly 5,500 tugboats and towboats, and over 31,000 barges. These vessels transit 25,000 miles of inland and intracoastal waterways; the Great Lakes; and the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. Tugboats also provide essential services including ship docking, tanker escort and bunkering in ports and harbors around the country. Twelve AWO member companies are headquartered in Kentucky and many more companies transport goods through, to, and from the state on the Ohio and Mississippi river systems.

The Riverport facilitates a safe, economical, and environmentally friendly method for bringing bulk material to and from a four-state region (Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, and Missouri). The Riverport supports the region's agriculture, construction, and manufacturing industries, and it is well situated to supply materials for the region's multi-modal infrastructure projects, such as the I-24 reconstruction and the Army Corps of Engineers' Kentucky Lock Addition Project. As additional infrastructure projects receive funding, it is anticipated that the Riverport will become an even more integral part of regional logistics.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

August 3, 2021

Page 2

The Riverport would utilize this grant to modernize aging equipment, expand storage facilities, and mitigate hazardous runoff. These improvements would benefit the region by reducing the financial cost and environmental impact of freight transportation, and they would increase the efficiency and capacity of the Riverport.

Thank you for considering the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport's application for the PIDP. We would be pleased to provide additional feedback or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Justin Lampert

Justin Lampert

Manager – Midcontinent Office