

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

July 29, 2025

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Sang H. Yi
Acting Maritime Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD Port Infrastructure Development

Dear Secretary Duffy and Acting Administrator Yi:

I write in support of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$30 million in grant funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program for the 2025 Duluth Port Terminal Expansion project; this grant, should it be awarded, will be matched by \$8.4 million in secured state grant and local funding.

The DSPA owns and operates the Clure Public Marine Terminal on Rice's Point in Duluth, which falls within the larger Lincoln Park neighborhood. Improvements to port infrastructure and service capabilities made by DSPA support the growth of well-paying industrial jobs in Duluth and strengthen supply chain options for regional industries. The 2025 Duluth Port Multimodal Terminal Expansion project includes 2 main components: (1) demolishing the former grain elevators at the Duluth Lake Port dock to create 7.5 acres of new laydown space; and (2) reconstruction of 1150 linear feet of the Duluth Lake Port dock. This urgently needed rehabilitation of port infrastructure will allow for future expansion at the port, which last year handled an impressive 30 million tons of cargo, including iron ore, cement, durum wheat, spring wheat, oats, beet pulp pellets, and breakbulk, project, and containerized cargo.

The Port of Duluth-Superior is the largest port on the Great Lakes and among the nation's top 20 ports by tonnage. Located at the western tip of Lake Superior, at the head of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, the port is the gateway to global trade for mid-America. It serves as a hub for domestic and international cargo, and it is the largest maritime gateway for US trade with Canada. As of 2022, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,000 direct and induced jobs and over \$1.6 billion in economic activity.

The initiatives within this grant application complement and continue a robust series of port upgrades funded in part by federal and state grant funds, which has increased warehouse capacity, rehabilitated and modernized dock walls, added and expanded the multimodal terminal, and added

28 acres of maritime cargo handling and outdoor storage and additional usable Berths to the Clure Terminal Expansion area over the last 10 years.

I support DSPA's strong partnership in the regional business community and appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Stauber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Stauber" clearly distinguishable.

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress