

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in strong support of the BUILD 2018 Discretionary Grants Program application submitted by the Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors (PDA-DPH) for the “Main Wharf Rehabilitation and Modification Project” at the Market Street Marine Terminal located on the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Support from BUILD would enable PDA-DPH to address operational deficiencies and return the terminal to full capacity to meet the current and future demands for the regional movement of ocean and coastal cargo.

To compete in a global economy, transportation infrastructure must keep pace with global growth. In order to meet demand in these global markets, maritime infrastructure must be maintained in a state of good repair while improving facilities’ efficiencies to satisfy marine transportation needs of the future. As New Hampshire’s only public access, general cargo, deep-water terminal, the Market Street Marine Terminal provides a viable regional marine transportation option for businesses currently located or wishing to move to the Northeast region. Yet, the condition of the terminal’s Main Wharf is substandard, and critical repairs are needed to sustain current activity and generate new interest in the port.

Maintenance to the Main Wharf is necessary to maintain and improve structural integrity. Due to age, certain elements of the wharf have been closed to activity, presenting impediments to the safe and efficient handling of cargo. Without funding assistance, additional sections of the Main Wharf will be forced to shut down. Modifications to the existing Main Wharf are also needed to remove obstacles to the efficient handling of cargo and freight that cause costly delays and reduce safety at the facility. These obstacles preclude direct access to vessels secured to the Main Wharf due to an open water area between the wharf and the shore.

Failure to sufficiently repair these flaws will hamper the ability of the Market Street Marine Terminal to keep pace with demand now and exploit potential growth in the future. I respectfully urge you to favorably consider funding the BUILD 2018 Discretionary Grants Program application of the Pease Development Authority, Division of Ports and Harbors “Main Wharf Rehabilitation and Modification Project.”

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator