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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0923

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2353 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-1313
FAX: (202) 225-1171
- 2701 W. OAKLAND PARK BOULEVARD
SUITE 200
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33311
TELEPHONE: (954) 733-2800
FAX: (954) 735-9444
- DELRAY BEACH CITY HALL
100 NW 1ST AVENUE
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444
TELEPHONE: (561) 243-7042
FAX: (561) 243-7327

www.alceehastings.house.gov

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: The Port of Palm Beach – TIGER III Discretionary Grant Proposal

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the proposal for the Slip 3 Redevelopment Project, submitted by the Port of Palm Beach to the U.S. Department of Transportation for consideration of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) III Discretionary Grant request. The Slip 3 project is an integral component of the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and completion of this project will impact economic prosperity for Palm Beach County, the State of Florida, as well as the entire nation. Completion of the Slip 3 Redevelopment Project is vital to the Port of Palm Beach's ability to stay competitive and thousands of jobs are directly dependent on these facilities at the Port.

If funded, this project will provide the Port with the ability to load and offload more goods and materials, which will result in increased shipping throughout the region. Freight rail lines in close proximity to the Port of Palm Beach will benefit from expanded shipping, increasing the flow of goods to millions of Americans. Furthermore, the project will benefit many of my constituents who work at the Port with increased safety and livability standards and will further result in the creation of numerous construction jobs and long-term positions within the port itself. Many of the surrounding cities rely on the Port for jobs and business in this economically struggling area, further increasing the importance of the Port to the Palm Beach Region. I am proud to support the completion of this project which will ensure the long-term competitiveness of the Port and the Palm Beach County Region.

Thank you for consideration of this important grant. I respectfully request to be kept informed of the overall progress of this request and when a decision will be made. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress