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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0922

October 25, 2011

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

**Re: Recommendation for TIGER funding for Port of Palm Beach Slip 3 project**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my highest recommendation for federal TIGER grant funding for an essential port project that happens to be located in the 22<sup>nd</sup> District of Florida, which I am privileged to represent in Congress.

Specifically, I am referring to the urgently needed refurbishment of Slip 3 at Port of Palm Beach, and key reasons for its TIGER funding include:

**Solid return on investment (ROI):** The requested grant amount is for less than half of the overall project cost, thus facilitating a very favorable return on the federal investment as compared with a project for which the federal government covers 80 percent of cost, with local share meeting the technical requirement of 20 percent. For the Slip 3 project, an overall \$42 million endeavor, the TIGER request is for \$20 million.

**Importance to regional economy:** Port of Palm Beach is a major South Florida economic engine, supporting well-paying local jobs and driving corporate growth. Industry sectors depending upon maintaining and expanding Slip 3 operations include sugar and molasses, cement and other construction materials, and power generation (fuel for FPL plants).

**Importance in emergencies:** Slip 3 plays a critical role in recovery from hurricanes and other natural disasters and, as it is designed for heavylift operations with rail at the dock, can play a part in mobilization of military personnel and equipment – a benefit I can speak to from my 22 years of service in the U.S. Army.

**Urgent need for refurbishment:** The fact that Slip 3 is in imminent danger of structural failure is well-documented. If it is not refurbished, the regional economy will suffer a severe blow.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you in greater detail the utmost essentialness of TIGER funding for the Slip 3 project at Port of Palm Beach.

Steadfast and Loyal,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen B. West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word "West".

Allen B. West  
Member of Congress

AW/jg