

Sugar Cane Growers  Cooperative of Florida

POST OFFICE BOX 666

33430-0666

BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA

October 6, 2011

TIGER Grant Selection Committee
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Dear TIGER Grant Selection Committee:

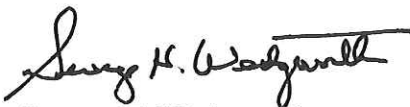
The purpose of this correspondence is to support the Port of Palm Beach's grant request which has been submitted to TIGER Grant Selection Committee for consideration.

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida will celebrate our 50th Crop season this year. Our growers farm and harvest sugar cane on 70,000 acres; producing 300,000 tons of raw sugar and 19 million gallons of molasses annually. We have been tenants at the Port of Palm Beach since 1973 in very good standing through the Florida Sugar & Molasses Exchange (FSME), an agricultural marketing cooperative. As a member of FSME, Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative exports 100% of our sugar and 45-60% of our molasses per annum.

Not only do our shipments through Port facilities provide enough sugar for the average annual demands of more than nine million Americans, they embody a major component of Florida's economic engine. Thousands of jobs are directly dependant on our ability to access our customers through the Port of Palm Beach facilities, as there is currently no other viable alternative.

Our sugar and molasses is shipped from slip #3 at the Port of Palm Beach, which is in dire need of repair. If this slip were to be deemed unusable for an unforeseen length of time, our industry and community would suffer shattering economic consequences. Given the already turbulent economic conditions, we request your favorable consideration to provide funding for this project. Without your assistance, thousands of jobs and the future of a very fragile Glades economy are at risk.

Sincerely,



George H. Wedgworth
President & C.E.O.

GHW:slr