

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2019

Mr. George Riccardo
Director of Government Affairs
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Port of Palm Beach FY19 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety
Improvement (CRISI) Grant Application
Funding Opportunity FR-CRS-19-001
Tracking Number GRANT12958618**

Dear Mr. Riccardo:

As Members of Congress representing Palm Beach County, we write in support of the application submitted by the Port of Palm Beach to CRISI Grant Program. The Port is requesting \$1.2 million for its Track 2 Intermodal Rail Facility Expansion Project, which will fund the project's required environmental review process under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and 30 percent design criteria package.

The Port of Palm Beach is an important economic driver in our rapidly growing region. As a major connector to the Caribbean and other international markets, we understand that the Port's grant application will support a crucial step for growing its capacity. The Port's executive leadership has informed us that all planning projects under the first phase of its expansion project (Track 1) has been completed over the past two years, and the project is now ready to proceed to the next phase. The Port intends to eventually increase its intermodal rail capacity from 44,000 20-foot-equivalent unit (TEUs) per year to 95,000 TEUs to support a projected 500,000 TEU throughput by 2031.

We greatly appreciate your continued commitment to rail improvements nationwide and ask that you give the Port of Palm Beach's FY19 CRISI application full and fair consideration consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. We respectfully request to be kept apprised of your decision in this matter.



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress