

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of the Port of Palm Beach as it seeks \$13,224,090 in funding from the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects for FY 2020 grant program.

The Port of Palm Beach exports 80 percent of its cargo and its current intermodal rail utilization is nearly at its max capacity of 44,000 twenty foot equivalent containers (TEUs) per year. An important U.S. connection to island nations of the Caribbean, such as the Bahamas, the port's entire container throughput will be unable to meet expected demand due to a projected growth to roughly 500,000 TEUs per year within the next decade.

If awarded, funds would be used to expand the Port of Palm Beach's intermodal freight rail facility by 116 percent, from its current rate of 43,250 TEUs to 100,000 TEUs per year. It would also add 3,680 feet of working track to the intermodal container transfer facility and provide for new marine terminal access track that connects with the Florida East Coast Railway mainline, and update the internal terminal roadway network.

I applaud the Port of Palm Beach on its efforts to meet growth challenges. I request your full and fair consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator