



April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Port of Oakland 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Project (PIDP) Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, representing over 300 major employers across the Bay Area, I am writing in support of the Port of Oakland's application to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for the TraPac Zero Emissions Cargo Handling Project (Project). The Project will advance innovative and sustainable transportation initiatives in the freight sector and improve the efficiency of port operations.

The Project will advance zero emissions equipment adoption in the maritime sector and domestic manufacturing associated with these green investments. It will replace conventional diesel-powered cargo handling equipment with zero emissions equipment that will be sourced domestically, and will add charging equipment and related infrastructure consisting of battery electric storage systems and ancillary electrical system upgrades. Importantly, the charging system includes innovative resiliency features that ensure extended operational duty cycles while equipment is in use, thereby minimizing additional power from the electric grid that is typically associated with an electrification project of this scale.

The Project supports the continued competitiveness of a critical export gateway for our nation's agricultural shippers. It is also consistent with state freight improvement goals as outlined in the California State Freight Mobility Plan, the California State Transportation Agency's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, and locally developed plans such as the Port's Seaport 2020 and Beyond Air Quality Plan and the West Oakland Community Air Action Plan, led by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Project, which will improve port infrastructure to increase the safety, efficiency, and reliability of port operations while simultaneously supporting economic vitality, climate adaptation, and emissions reductions initiatives which are of benefit to local disadvantaged communities. Should there be any questions or need for more information, please contact Laura Hill, Bay Area Council Policy Director, at [Lhill@bayareacouncil.org](mailto:Lhill@bayareacouncil.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Hill".

**Laura Hill**  
Public Policy Director  
Bay Area Council