



May 10, 2022

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

RE: Port of Oakland's Port Infrastructure Development Project (PIDP) Proposal

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, representing over 300 major employers across the San Francisco Bay Area, I'm writing to share our strong support for the Port of Oakland's application to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) competitive grant program for the Outer Harbor Terminal Redevelopment Project, Phase I. This project will enable the Port of Oakland to alleviate current congestion, grow its agricultural exports, and build its resilience to future supply chain disruptions.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented supply chain disruptions that reverberated around the world. At the Port of Oakland – the sixth largest container port in the nation – this resulted in port congestion and capacity issues that particularly impacted farm exports. The \$37 million federal funding request for this \$49 million project supports the redevelopment of approximately 26 acres of its Outer Harbor Terminal area, which will dramatically increase the Port's capacity to respond to freight congestion now and grow cargo operations in the future.

The project will restore agricultural export activity by expanding the Port's use of plug-in refrigerated containers and providing hundreds of new storage and staging areas for perishable products. The redevelopment also includes new LED lighting, equipment charging stations, and battery storage and other substation improvements which will advance the Port's goal of transitioning to near-zero emissions and mitigating air quality impacts to surrounding communities.

This project is essential for the Port to address current supply chain congestion, decarbonize its operations, and expand the global competitiveness of California by serving as the primary connection point between California's agricultural economy and world markets. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Loper'.

Emily Loper
Policy Director