

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 29, 2021

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

RE: Port of Oakland's Zero Emissions Freight Equipment Project Application to PIDP Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support to express my strong support for the Port of Oakland's (Port) \$11 million grant request through the U.S. Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) to create an enhanced sustainable utility infrastructure network to support a growing base of zero emissions freight equipment users throughout the seaport. This project improves the resiliency of the Port's utility operations and supports the continued development and integration of zero emissions vehicles and equipment throughout the Port of Oakland's maritime operations.

The \$20 million total project consists of a multi-functional modern 12 MW substation integrating renewable power generation to support expansion of the electric heavy duty truck fleet and electrically powered cargo-handling equipment, as well as ship power availability at the Port of Oakland. The new substation will replace a circa 1950s substation at the end of its operational life and will be connected to other Port substations, which improves reliability of the power supply to the entire Seaport area. During power supply emergencies due events such as wildfires or extreme heat, the substation could also provide power to the local community, enhancing local grid resilience in the face of climate change.

The project is a component of the Port of Oakland's Seaport 2020 and Beyond Air Quality Plan, which seeks to reduce the emissions impact from its activities and transition into near-zero emissions cargo operations.

This project benefits from significant community and institutional support, as the deployment of heavy-duty EV charging infrastructure serving seaport trucking and maritime terminal users is among the highest priorities identified by West Oakland community stakeholders.

I urge your full and fair consideration of the Port of Oakland's request consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please keep my office informed of the status of this application, and if I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact my Deputy State Director, Daniel Chen, at (650) 533-2207. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



ALEX PADILLA
United States Senator