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April 24, 2023

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

RE: Port of Oakland's 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Project (PIDP) Proposal

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Port of Oakland's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for the TraPac Zero Emissions Cargo Handling Project. With the support of the \$37 million grant-funding request for this \$46 million project, the federal government can partner and advance innovative and sustainable transportation initiatives in the freight sector and improve the efficiency of Port operations.

The Port's Project will replace conventional diesel-powered cargo handling equipment (26 off-road yard tractors and seven container-handling top picks) with zero emissions equipment that will be sourced domestically. The Project will also include charging equipment and related infrastructure, consisting of Battery Electric Storage Systems and ancillary electrical system upgrades. The charging system includes innovative resiliency features that ensure extended operational duty cycles, as the batteries will "trickle charge" while equipment is in use, thereby minimizing additional power from the electric grid.

The Project 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 that benefit local disadvantaged communities. The Project is 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.

I greatly appreciate USDOT's consideration of the requested investment in this Project, as it supports the continued competitiveness of a critical export gateway for our nation's agricultural shippers, while at the same time advancing zero emissions equipment adoption in the maritime sector and domestic manufacturing associated with these green investments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Skinner".

Nancy Skinner
California State Senator, District 9