

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Central New York International Business Alliance is a not-for-profit organization which works to encourage the growth of exports among Central New York manufacturers and service industry leaders. Our membership consists of leading exporters and export service providers in the region. We are writing to you to endorse the applications for the development of the CenterState New York Inland Port and Rail Connector Project. We ask USDOT to look favorably on the Port of Oswego's request for \$24 million in assistance through the TIGER program.

The CNYIBA is working to increase exports for this region in concert with the National Export Initiative's goods to double the amount of exports for the United States. Our region, while home to many manufacturers and export service firms, exports has a smaller share of its goods and services than the United States. Our shippers have told us that in part, this is the result of high prices to move a container load of products to the Port of New York and New Jersey. We believe that the successful implementation of this project could reduce the cost of shipping a container by as much as 40%.

This project could also reduce congestion at the Port of New York/New Jersey, and reduce the delays for shippers to access containers, and get their products loaded onto oceangoing carriers.

The CNYIBA is working diligently to encourage, train, and facilitate more companies from our region to become exporters. We have advised many companies who need assistance, mainly their products overseas, and we have also worked closely with the federal and state agencies including the International Trade Administration, the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Empire State Development Corporation to encourage and underwrite companies who are willing to increase their sales overseas. This is an important project in facilitating that work.

For these reasons, we ask that USDOT approve the application of the Port for this important project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven King
Executive Director
CNYIBA