



May 1, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The American Great Lakes Ports Association represents the public port authorities on the United States side of the Great Lakes. Each of our member port agencies is a division of state or local government, or an independent agency created by state statute. As a group, and individually, Great Lakes ports work to foster maritime commerce in the region and economic development in their communities.

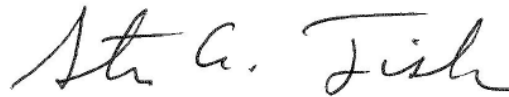
This letter is to express support for the Port of Oswego Authority's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2020 "BUILD" grant program. The port is seeking \$20.53 million in federal funds to be matched with \$15 million in local funds to construct the "Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion Project." This project will repurpose existing bulk cargo storage structures, construct two new grain storage towers, new dump pits for rail and truck, build a ship loading system, and improve the conveyance systems for five storage structures. Construction of this \$35.53 million project will triple the movement of agriculture products between the port and suppliers in upstate New York and Connecticut, and increase the port's exports to international markets.

The Port of Oswego is an important and strategically located transportation hub for raw materials, agricultural and manufactured products transported into and out of the upstate New York region. This investment will facilitate the efficient and cost-effective increase in storage capacity and import/export capabilities that will in turn accommodate increased economic

activities for the Port's customers and the surrounding area. As well as supporting an increase in agri-business development, this project will create at least 12 full-time jobs, reduce overall emissions, reduce wear and tear on aging highway infrastructure, and in the short term provide an estimated \$11.5 million, or 25,000 man-days, in construction jobs.

We hope you will give this project strong consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "St. A. Fisher". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Steven A. Fisher
Executive Director