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Operation Oswego County

An Economic and Job Development Corporation Serving Oswego County, NY

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: U.S Department of Transportation 2020 BUILD Discretionary Grant
Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion Project

Dear Madam Secretary:

Operation Oswego County, Inc. (OOC) is a private sector not-for-profit economic development corporation. We are Oswego County's authorized economic development organization. OOC has been in business since 1953. In this capacity OOC supports the Port of Oswego Authority's 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion project

The \$35.53M total project cost which includes a \$20.53M U.S. DOT BUILD Discretionary grant request and \$15M local matching funds would allow the Port to complete its most ambitious expansion project since its conception by allowing them to repurpose two dome structures and half a warehouse, construct two grain towers with new dump pits for rail and truck, build a ship loading system, and improve the conveyance systems for five storage structures.

This will enable the Port to triple the movement of agriculture products between the Port of Oswego, New York's only deep water Port on Lake Ontario, upstate New York and Connecticut and increase the Port's export business to international markets. The increased freight volumes through the Port will provide regional farmers better and lower cost transportation options that are more environmentally friendly. 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. These transportation improvements are necessary to advance the Port's and community's strategy to expand international business opportunities and retain and grow our important agricultural and manufacturing base.

We are a partner to the Authority in supporting investment in our local resources and infrastructure that provide immediate and long-term jobs and sustainable growth. Oswego, NY is an important and strategically located transportation hub for agricultural materials and products transported into and out of the region, and the long-term sustainability of the Port of Oswego is vital to our economy.

For these reasons, we fully support the Port of Oswego Authority in this important regional endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Operation Oswego County

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara J. Bateman".

Barbara J. Bateman
Board President