

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE MINORITY

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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL
RESOURCES

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:

I write today to you in support of 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.

With this assistance, the Port would be able to move forward with a critical expansion project that includes the repurposing of two dome structures and have a warehouse, construction of two grain towers with new dump pits for rail and truck, the building of a ship loading system and the improvement of the conveyance systems for five storage structures.

These improvements will enable the Port to triple movement of agriculture products between the Port of Oswego—New York's only deep water Port on Lake Ontario—upstate New York and Connecticut. Additionally, it will increase the Port's expansion business to international markets. Our farmers will benefit from better and lower cost transportation options, as well as an increase in agribusiness development. Additionally, the project will result in the creation of at least 12 full-time jobs, along with an estimated \$11.5 million, or 25,000 man days in short-term construction jobs.

This project will move the Port and the community closer toward their goals of expanding international business opportunities, as well as retaining and growing our agricultural and manufacturing industries. I fully support the Port of Oswego Authority's plans and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty".

Patty Ritchie
State Senator

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