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May 12, 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 Port Infrastructure Development Program PIDP Grant
Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion Project**

Dear Madam Secretary:

As Chairman of the Oswego County Legislature I'm pleased to support the Port of Oswego Authority's 2020 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion project.

I fully support the Port of Oswego Authority's grant application for the Central New York Regional Agricultural Export Center Expansion project. The \$33.53M total project cost which includes a U.S. DOT PIDP \$20.53M 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. Construction of this \$35.53 million project will triple the movement of agriculture products between the Port, upstate New York and Connecticut and increase the Port's export business to international markets.

The completion of this \$33.53M project will enable the Port to triple the movement of agriculture products into and out of the Port of Oswego, upstate New York and Connecticut and allow New York State's only deep-water port on Lake Ontario to compete in the export business in international markets. The increased freight volumes through the Port will also 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.

I support the 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. As well as supporting an increase in agri-business in upstate New York and beyond, this project will create jobs, reduce emissions, and modernize critical transportation infrastructure.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Weatherup".
Hon. James Weatherup, Chairman
Oswego County Legislature