



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

To Whom it May Concern:

The Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce advances the business and community interests of the region through advocacy, member services and community enhancements. The GOFCC is a fully integrated affiliate of CenterState CEO, enabling it to be strong chamber, dedicated to the needs of the Oswego-Fulton community, while bringing the area prominently into the overall growth and success of the region. Below, please find our letter of support for the Port Authority Of Oswego, New York State's only port on Lake Ontario.

The Port of Oswego, New York State's only port on Lake Ontario, is preparing to embark on its largest grain expansion project since its conception. The **Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion Project** will 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 Port of Oswego is an important and strategically located transportation hub for raw materials and products transported into and out of the region. The Port continues to increase handling of agriculture products, and its customers want to increase exports. As Port is currently running at capacity, providing increased efficient and cost-effective storage and import/export capabilities is vital to accommodate increasing economic activities. The Port is applying for a \$20.53 million Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant from the US Department of Transportation that will have a \$15 million committed local match to complete the project.

This infrastructure 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. This project supports the Port's mission as it "...promotes regional and international growth and development while being mindful of our responsibility to serve as a steward of the environment."

Sincerely,

Katherine Toomey
Executive Director
The Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce
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