Oregon Potato Commission

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Oregon Potato Commission is proud to support The Northwest Seaport Alliance's (NWSA) application titled *Pierce County Terminal Efficiency Project* for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2024 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) funding opportunity.

The Project will support the PIDP program's goals of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, and within the Port. The Project is a set of improvements to Pierce County Terminal in the NWSA's South Harbor that will make the cargo terminal more energy efficient, expand capacity for refrigerated containers, and modernize the transfer zone to allow the terminal to operate more cost-effectively.

Expanding refrigerated capacity at the terminal will benefit Northwest agricultural exporters, who have weathered several difficult years of supply chain upheaval. The Project will increase the competitiveness of exports and reduce costs to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and other producers in getting their goods to international markets.

More potatoes are produced in Oregon than any other vegetable and is one of the top 10 commodities produced in the state our of more than 225. The majority of these potatoes are exported, contributing greatly to traded sector dollars and the economy in rural and urban areas alike. Continued efficient movement of our export products out of the Port is critical to the overall health of our industry.

We strongly endorse this project as a next step in making a key U.S. trade gateway more efficient and improving our region's competitiveness with Canadian seaports and supply chains.

We urge you to fully fund the NWSA's application to the PIDP grant program.

Sincerely,

Gary Roth

Gary Roth
Executive Director

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