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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application submitted by the Port Authority of Guam for the maintenance and repair of the "Hotel" Wharf and Access Road, commonly referred to as "H" wharf. The wharf was constructed in 1948 and was utilized as an ammunition wharf by the U.S. Navy before it was transferred to the Government of Guam in 1989. Following its transfer to the local government, the wharf was used for the export of scrap metal, import of vehicles, aggregate operations, and for fishing and tourism-related industries. Since then there have been no major upgrades to the wharf and was eventually deemed non-compliant by the U.S. Coast Guard in the early 1990s.

The Guam Port's TIGER grant application aims to invest \$21 million in construction projects and strongly demonstrates project readiness which includes the identification and development of environmental components to address potential environmental impacts. The application's project description includes:

- The construction of a new sheet pile bulkhead retaining wall to increase the wharf's footprint within the water by approximately 21,000 S.F.
- Selected demolition for the removal of surface facilities and dilapidated structures
- Additional structural components to include the installation of mooring bollards on the wharf and along the roadway's east and west wharf
- The creation of nearly 2 acres of additional cargo storage area; and
- The repair of existing roadway to improve access to "H" wharf and other facilities


Additionally, the total grant investment used to upgrade the "H" wharf facility will bring it into compliance with U.S. Coast Guard criteria to regain certification as a designated waterfront facility. The upgrade project will expand wharf capacity to alleviate any congestion at the main cargo terminal due to Guam being a transshipment nexus for the islands in Micronesia, which services over 600,000 people spread out over 1.5 million square miles of ocean. Transshipment of goods to Micronesia is critical to U.S. strategic objectives in the Pacific region and to national economic goals.

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“H” wharf upgrade will improve the Port’s capability to accept additional incoming vessels and cargo which provide greater economic benefits to the Micronesian region. Improvements to the port will reduce logistical conflicts with vessels or cargo. Reducing port congestion will help to ensure the economies in the Micronesian region have timely sea transport for a wide variety of goods. Guam’s unique position as a hub of freight forwarding from the U.S. mainland makes the Port Authority of Guam a critical facility that should be utilized to its potential to increase production possibilities and ultimately generates economic activity.

In Congress, I continue to work to support maritime capabilities for the benefit of Guam and the Micronesian region. I strongly support the Port Authority of Guam’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 2015 TIGER Grant and I look forward to improving “H” Wharf which will have a long term positive affect on Guam and the entire Pacific region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress