



July 23, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Port of Charleston has experienced record growth over the past several years and is expected to handle the highest container volume in its history for the third year in a row.

This growth is positive news for our local and state's economy, with 187,200 statewide jobs and \$53 billion in annual economic impact tied to the Port. As our Port continues to grow, we must look at innovative ways to enhance the intermodal supply chain.

Due to the location of SCPA terminals, there is significant impact on residential and business interests located around the marine terminals. By operating and managing an inner harbor barge system, SCPA can significantly reduce the length and number of truck trips on local roads which will ease congestion, emissions, and create a more efficient transfer of cargo. This barge system will be the next iteration of the successful Rapid Rail program, a local truck dray program that moves containers to and from railyards in the Charleston area and SCPA container terminals and averages nearly 500,000 truck trips annually.

SC Chamber of Commerce and the state's business community fully support the development of this Container Barge Operation. Thank you for your careful consideration of this grant application, which will help improve the supply chain and the quality of life in our area.

Sincerely,

Ted Pitts,
CEO and President
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

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