

# United States Senate

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express our support for an application submitted jointly by the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska and the Port of Alaska to the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The Municipality and Port are seeking funding to assist with the first phase of the "Port of Alaska Modernization Program (PAMP)," a project vital to the economic security of Alaskans.

The Port of Alaska is our state's primary import terminal, which Alaskans rely on for the delivery of food, construction materials, fuel, and other goods needed for everyday life. It is also an intermodal transport hub that efficiently connects marine, highway, rail, pipeline, and air cargo systems to move goods and fuel to some 200 communities and military bases.

The Anchorage region, which includes over 40% of the state's population, cannot prosper without the Port serving its function as the driving engine. The Port is more than a local resource, however, as almost half of the incoming cargo is bound for destination outside of Anchorage. It also serves deep-water vessels operating year-round to transport cargo faster, cheaper, and more reliably than any other means. In addition, the Port is an important piece of the United States' national defense infrastructure that helps keep our nation strong.

Despite its critical nature, the Port is in severe danger from crumbling infrastructure that has served years beyond its intended life span. Furthermore, the eroding pilings beneath the Port are wholly insufficient to protect it from a seismic event (more than half of America's earthquakes occur in Alaska).

The PAMP would provide needed construction to the Port. The reconstruction of this U.S. Department of Defense-designated "strategic seaport" will enable safe, cost-effective, reliable, and resilient Port operations that foster a state of good repair now and into the future.

Consistent with all applicable rules, laws and regulations, I respectfully ask that all due consideration be given to this and all Alaskan applications. We ask that you keep our offices apprised on the outcome of the application.

Sincerely,



DAN SULLIVAN  
United States Senator