



May 12, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support Letter for BUILD for MKARNS

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc. (IRPT), I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to assist with the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Mooring Modernization Project.

The proposed improvements to mooring structures at critical locations on the MKARNS waterway are both necessary and urgent to provide an increase in overall safety within the MKARNS network, provides economic benefit and support of future development, and improves the reliability of freight movement to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

IRPT supports the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Mooring Modernization Project for its vital contribution to the region, state and nation. The proposed project supports a network that is critical to Oklahoma's economy and freight movement. We strongly urge your support of full funding for the project. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. (IRPT) is a nationwide trade association composed of ports, terminals, users and suppliers of the U.S. Inland Waterway system. IRPT promotes the use of our nation's rivers as the most cost effective, and environmentally-friendly form of transportation. I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this funding application.

Sincerely,

Aimee Andres

Aimee Andres
Executive Director