



May 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

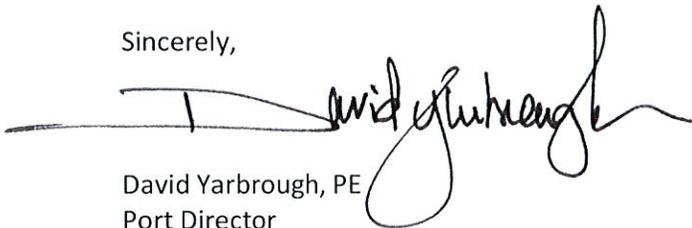
The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is one of the nation's premier inland river port industrial parks and transportation facilities. Located at the head of navigation for the McClelland-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), our organization and the waterway itself is an ideal example of how public/private partnerships can excel in infrastructure development, maintenance, and operation to support the creation of new jobs and investment. The floods of 2019 were a significant detriment to the operability of our waterway, but also revealed the need for new investment in safety equipment such as additional barge mooring structures at strategic locations along the river. To that end, the **MKARNS Mooring Modernization Project** seeking an award from USDOT's BUILD Grant program has our full support.

In our role as a partner for this Build grant, we plan to take the following actions:

- Ownership and ongoing maintenance of the constructed monopiles at the Tulsa Port. As non-appropriated agency of the State of Oklahoma, the Port Authority will manage and maintain the fleet infrastructure.
- On-site construction/mobilization, laydown and storage, provided for the project during construction.
- Data/information sharing (CAD, GIS, etc.) of Port infrastructure for project coordination.
- Operate the berthing and barge fleeting operations in conjunction with the other system assets to provide safe mooring for the fleet during highwater/flood events.

We look forward to partnering on this project with the other public and private entities dedicated to the safety and operability of the MKARNS. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Yarbrough, PE  
Port Director