



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

Executive Office

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) – Letter of Support for Tulsa Port - Muscogee Port

As Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I write this letter in support to Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports in their application for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Moorings Modernization Project. The MKARNS Mooring Modernization Project will construct new mooring structures in the waterway that will replace existing obsolete anchors at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa and Port Muskogee. The modernized mooring infrastructure will enable safe harbor for mariners, increase reliability of structures in the event of a flood, and ensure the Oklahoma segment of the MKARNS can continue to support the over 22,000 full and part-time jobs it provides.

This project is a top priority for the MKARNS Oklahoma Segment. The Project will: *Provide mooring replacement structures that will better support forecasted freight demands; *Reduce safety risks by replacing obsolete anchorage systems; *Reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions; *Protect Oklahoma's infrastructure and economy during flooding events; and *Better maintain a state of good repair in the waterway by minimizing operations and maintenance costs.

The investment in infrastructure will provide long-term strength, security, and resiliency and will allow this area within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to continue as a major contributor to the U.S. and global markets. The MKARNS waterway links Oklahoma to a 12 state service area with various domestic ports along the U.S. inland waterways system and connects to foreign ports by way of New Orleans and the Gulf intracoastal Waterway. In 2021, the waterborne commerce on the MKARNS totaled 4.9 million tons with a value of more than \$2.3 billion dollars. In addition, more than 10.6 million tons traversed the entire MKARNS waterway with a value of more than \$3.6 billion dollars. It is important to note that shipping cargo by water is the most energy efficient and the most economically competitive form of freight transportation.

This project will assist in securing the investment needed for the viability, competitiveness, mobility and overall sustainability of the Muscogee Port and Tulsa Port.

I thank you for your support in the application of the Muscogee Port and Tulsa Port.

Respectfully,

David W. Hill
Principal Chief