



TULSA PORTS
BARGE · RAIL · INDUSTRIAL PARK
CATOOSA · INOLA

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority (Tulsa Ports), this letter is to support the application by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for consideration of award by the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Grant.

The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is a premier inland river port, industrial park and transportation facility located at the head of navigation for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS). Our organization and the waterway itself are ideal examples of how public/private partnerships can excel in infrastructure development, maintenance, and operation to support the creation of new jobs and investment. The MKARNS system provides over 10,000 direct jobs at its multiple inland ports and terminals and supports tens of thousands of additional indirect jobs in the states of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

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 RAISE, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant program has our full support.

In our role as a partner for this RAISE grant, we will continue to partner with other MKARNS stakeholders and the DOT in the development and safe conduct of waterborne freight movement. We commit to the 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. We will assist in on-site construction/mobilization by providing laydown and storage for the project during construction and will share CAD and GIS data of Port infrastructure for project coordination. Finally, we will 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. We are especially grateful to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for leading in the application and thank MARAD for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Yarbrough, PE
Port Director