

July 7, 2021

The Honorable Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
RAISE Review Committee
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: CCAD Cargo and Seafood Transfer Facility - DTOS59-21-RA-RAISE

Mr. Buttigieg and the RAISE Review Committee:

DulsEnergy Inc. is a small business located in Oregon that is seeking to commercialize dulse seaweed (*Devaleraea mollis*). This promising red seaweed grows naturally on the west coast, but can be grown effectively on land and we can control the quality. Over the past four years, we have built two seaweed farms in Oregon. We are nearing positive cash flow, but breaking into the market has been slow and difficult. One of our most promising markets is fresh seaweed to restaurants around the country. We have relied on a single local distributor to date to serve this national market, but COVID has drastically reduced demand. It is only now starting to reemerge. Our Bandon, Oregon facility is growing top quality seaweed that is perfect for this high end/high value market. However, getting that seaweed to Portland for distribution has been problematic due to the 10 hour round trip that it entails. Distribution capability in Coos Bay would be an extremely valuable resource. That is why we are providing this letter in support of the Coos County Airport District's application for the RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for the construction of a modern cargo and seafood transfer facility.

This project will remove hazardous World War II facilities and will open up property for a modern functional cargo storage and transfer facility, which in turn will allow for regional seafood harvesters to export their products nationally, including our best quality seaweed.

As a seafood business in Oregon, we have sought economical and efficient ways to get our products to our vendors, which has been an ongoing issue for the industry especially on the Southern Oregon Coast. This facility, in conjunction with having access to industrial size freezer and refrigeration space, will help us become more competitive in the seafood market, creating a direct economic benefit for Southern Oregon, which includes Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to support this grant application. This is a great way to RAISE our local economy.

Sincerely,



Jason Busch

COO, DulsEnergy Inc. dba Oregon Seaweed