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June 25, 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:

I am writing 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 modern functional cargo, cold storage and transfer facility, which in turn will allow for regional seafood harvesters to export their products regionally and nationally.

As a seafood business owner in Oregon, I have advocated for a facility like this for over 20 years. I have sought economical and efficient ways to get our products to our distributors and wholesalers regionally and nationally, 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.

A commercial freezer large enough to serve the growing number of direct marketers such as myself would be a game-changer. It would allow us to process numerous new market forms and value-added products of virtually every wild-caught fish from Oregon while reducing the carbon footprint of adding that value. As an example, currently the only co-packer processing of frozen loins is done in Bellingham Washington near the Canadian border. Every whole tuna fish destined for the sushi market must travel by freezer truck from the port of landing nearly to Canada, be processed, and then returned to market in the lower 48 states. This is costly and inefficient. The proposed facility would provide an alternative for fish to be processed in the frozen form.

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

Sincerely,

Rick Goche
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