



July 10, 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 this letter on behalf of the Oregon Trawl Commission 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 on the Southern Oregon coast. Oregon Trawl Commission is an industry-funded state government agency, established by the Oregon State Legislative Assembly to support the commercial trawl fishing industry in Oregon. Our industry is the largest producer of healthy sustainable Pink Shrimp, Pacific Whiting, and numerous Groundfish products (i.e., Rockfish, Sole, etc.) on the U.S. West Coast¹ with roughly 110 fishing vessels participating in the state- and federally managed fisheries (Oregon Pink Shrimp, Shoreside Pacific Whiting, and West Coast Groundfish fisheries).

The annual economic contributions of the Oregon trawl industry (the fishing fleet and seafood processors together) are substantial, exceeding \$300 million in statewide economic benefit.² The industry also supports hundreds of year-round local jobs in our rural fishing communities. Coos Bay/Charleston, the third largest commercial fishing port in Oregon, is home to the diverse fishing industry that contributes a lion share of \$120 million in value from the commercial fishing industry to the local communities in the Coos Bay port group region.²

We believe investing in a seafood transfer facility will provide long-term economic benefits for the Southern Oregon coast and its fishing industry. Availability of cold storage (or lack thereof) in any major commercial fishing port is an important variable affecting profitability of existing businesses as well as determining the future attractiveness of the industry itself. Having access

¹ Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Report, *ALL002 WOC All Species by Gear*. Available at: <https://reports.psmfc.org/pacfin/f?p=501:2:9082983113833:::>

² Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Report, *Economic Contribution of Oregon's Commercial Marine Fisheries*. Available at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic_impact.asp



to reasonably priced industrial size freezer and refrigeration space for seafood products on the Southern Oregon coast will help local commercial fishing/seafood operations become more cost-effective, economically sustainable and, therefore, more competitive in the marketplace. Due to paper-thin margins typically involved in the fishing/seafood business, it is critical to ensure that a cost to the industry from future infrastructure projects, such as this, remains reasonable and competitive in comparison to other Oregon commercial fishing ports of similar volume throughput.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to support this grant application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yelena Nowak".

Yelena Nowak

Director, Oregon Trawl Commission