

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND
PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
HOUSE SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE
AND AERONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND
SCIENCE EDUCATION

May 29, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
U. S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I would like to express my strong support for the Port of Pascagoula's Tiger V funding application to complete its Intermodal Improvement Project. This project will increase the amount of goods transported through the Port of Pascagoula Bayou Casotte Harbor by creating a better rail connection and by developing a modernized facility for the receipt, storage, and export of wood pellets.

The Mississippi Export Rail Line runs through the cities of Moss Point and Pascagoula. Because of this, redundant rail crossings can be found throughout the cities of Moss Point and Pascagoula. The Mississippi Export Rail Line will be relocated to an existing railroad right-of-way which will result in the closure of eighteen railroad crossings in the cities. The switching track of this line will be moved from its current high traffic position to a less traveled area of Pascagoula. Additionally, a new export terminal facility will be built to make use of the expanding market of wood pellets which can be used for sustainable energy production.

The Port of Pascagoula has made great efforts to leverage their existing resources to make this project a reality, including a \$10,000,000 investment by the State of Mississippi, \$15,000,000 by the Port of Pascagoula and another \$5,000,000 from the private sector. With an estimated total cost of approximately \$44 million, the Port is requesting approximately \$14,000,000 in TIGER V monies to complete the project.

The Port's improvement plan will create an important infrastructure improvement which will allow for more cost-effective worldwide exporting. As Mississippi taps into her vast timber and wood resources, these improvements will have a significant impact as a regional economic generator.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my support and encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to consider the regional benefits of this project.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress