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February 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Support Letter, Port of Port Arthur RAISE Grant Application, Port and West Side Access Flyover – Bridging a Wall to the Future**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Port of Port Arthur's 2023 RAISE Grant application. The port is seeking \$32 million in grant support for this project. "The Port and West Side Access Flyover Project" creates a flyover from the port across an active railyard and a flood protection levee to access a freight corridor. The project produces a positive benefit cost ratio as well as desirable national, regional, and local long-term outcomes. I recently received an update on the port's growth and pending export opportunities as well as their transportation infrastructure needs.

Consistent with the ROUTES initiative, an award will strengthen the transportation network connecting U.S. agriculture and rural communities to export markets. The project will also support growth of critical import commodities, strengthening the US supply chain capabilities. Awarding a RAISE grant allows the Port to accelerate construction and expedite the project and its benefits-improved freight mobility, increased safety, reduced emissions, and enhanced job opportunities in a challenged area.

The Port and Westside Access Flyover Project provides much of the infrastructure to improve a blighted area and drive economic development. The Project will provide local job creation for maritime transportation workers, economic development and revitalization in a community facing resiliency and unemployment issues and improved port access.

Thank you for your time and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

**Pat Avery, President/CEO**  
Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce