



2001 John S. Gibson Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Port of Tacoma's application for a \$15.8 million grant under the United States Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program (CFDA 20.933) for its Terminal 4 Pier Modernization project.

Ports America is the largest US terminal operator and stevedore, with operations in every strategic port in the nation. Ports America has over 85 years of experience through predecessor companies and its operations span all three U.S. Coasts. With a primary focus on containers, Ports America provides stevedoring and in some cases terminal management services for Containers, RoRo, Cruise, Bulk, and breakbulk cargos. Currently, the company has operations in more than 83 locations at 44 ports. This unique footprint serving the largest markets including Tacoma, Long Beach / LA, Oakland, New York / New Jersey, Savannah and Baltimore which provides Ports America with a strong and stable market position.

Ports America is an active and diverse terminal operator and stevedore in the Port of Tacoma, handling container, intermodal / rail operations and military cargo at various locations in the Port. This also includes the Husky terminal in which Ports America operates.

Pier 4, part of the Port of Tacoma's Husky Container Terminal, is becoming outdated in the face of modern containerized ship building trends. The Port intends to demolish and reconstruct Pier 4 in alignment with the neighboring Terminal 3 pier to create one contiguous 2,960 foot long pier structure capable of simultaneously berthing two ultra-large container ships. The new pier structure will also be designed to accommodate more modern 24-container wide, 100-guage cranes needed to work larger vessels.

Today, the terminal serves ships that carry 6,500 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) containers. After the improvements, the terminal will be able to handle 18,000-TEU vessels with the new cranes, increasing cargo throughput capacity across the pier from about 767,000 TEUs annually to an estimated 1.3 million TEUs. It is the increased throughput that will create the demand for new family-wage jobs in the region.

Ports America is owned by Highstar Capital, a leader in value-added infrastructure investing. Highstar Capital has led or co-led a number of significant, high value, diversified infrastructure investments in fields including: power generation, water and waste water, natural gas transmission and storage, waste management, waste-to energy, transportation logistics, intermodal transport and port concessions and operations.

Coupled with our experience and proven leadership in this industry, we believe that this infrastructure improvement project will attract new business to the region and will stimulate the economy through job creation. Jobs will be added for both the construction period and going forward indefinitely when complete in the area of stevedore and terminal operations.

I would like to thank you for your time and review of this grant request and urge you to give the Port of Tacoma grant application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Romanowski  
President – West Coast Containers