

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

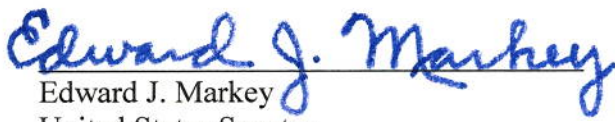
We write to encourage you to give due consideration to the New Bedford Port Authority's application to the 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program. This funding would help the Port of New Bedford extend its bulkhead, making room for 60 additional commercial vessels and providing an additional site for offshore wind staging. The proposed project will also sequester 250,000 cubic yards of contaminated materials and provide for the beneficial use of 130,000 cubic yards of sediment.

As a major commercial fishing hub on the east coast, the Port of New Bedford's infrastructure is vital to supporting the sale, processing, and export of seafood for fishing communities from Maine to Florida. New Bedford leads the nation in the value of fish landed, which helps sustain the Commonwealth's critical commercial fishing industry. In 2015, the Port generated \$9.8 billion in economic impact for the entire New England region.

To remain competitive in this increasingly globalized economy, the Port of New Bedford needs to improve and expand its infrastructure. The proposed expansion of the North Terminal bulkhead and coordinated berth dredging will help create hundreds of new and permanent jobs in the region, generating tens of millions of dollars in additional economic development, while improving safety and state of good repair.

We thank you for considering this proposal, which would be a major step towards meeting the economic potential of New Bedford's growing harbor. If you would like additional information about our request, please feel free to contact Daniel Greene (202-224-2742) in Senator Markey's office, Courtney Brunson (202-224-4543) in Senator Warren's office, or Michael Wertheimer (202-225-3111) in Congressman Keating's office.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


William R. Keating
Member of Congress