



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

August 23, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Rhode Island is facing difficult challenges in recovering from the national financial recession. As Governor of the State of Rhode Island, I have been working vigorously to create a multi-phase program to establish jobs for Rhode Islanders. The City of Providence proposal of the ReNEWable Port project through the TIGER II grant program is critical to helping me achieve my goal and putting Rhode Islanders back to work. The ReNEWable Port is a positive effort to grow jobs, improve American efficiency on the waterfront and facilitate the nation's Marine Highway program.

As you know, Rhode Island is amongst the states hardest hit by this recession, and suffers from a high unemployment rate – the highest in New England. This is exacerbated by the fact that Rhode Island has ranked as a “distressed” state, and the State’s unemployment rate continues to exceed the national average.

This ReNEWable Port project achieves four major goals:

- 1) The ReNEWable Port expands the operation of the Port of Providence (ProvPort) as a successful bulk operation, plus other cargoes, thus reducing trucking and carbon production in the Northeast Corridor.
- 2) Converts the energy use of the Port operation from fossil fuel-generated electricity to solar and wind generated renewable energy.
- 3) Creates a job-producing, inter-modal transportation hub that links sea, rail and highways to expedite and reduce both the cost and energy to move goods in the northeast.
- 4) Protects the existing jobs associated with the Port that are now threatened due to an aging infrastructure.

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The ReNEWable Port is scheduled to begin as soon as funding is awarded and is truly “shovel ready.” This award and subsequent construction timetable is imperative to assist in the State’s recovery. The jobs created are high paying and the hundreds of new jobs created will average in excess of \$80,000 in wages and benefits.

Lastly, the ReNEWable Port project serves as a model public-private partnership that has mobilized state and local government, businesses, universities, and a range of non-profits all committed to expanding the ProvPort operations, realizing the environmental benefits of reducing greenhouse gases, and most importantly, creating much needed new jobs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about the importance of the City of Providence TIGER II grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor