



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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August 18, 2010

Keith W. Stokes
Executive Director

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the Director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC), the State's designated arm for economic development, I am writing in support of the City of Providence application for the TIGER II grant program. The RIEDC is acutely aware of the need to invest in the State's industrial waterfront. As such, the ReNEWable Port application is a positive step in creating new jobs, improve American efficiency on the working waterfront and facilitate the nation's Marine Highway program advocated by the US Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Rhode Island is amongst the states hardest hit by the recession, and suffers from a high unemployment rate – the highest in New England. The ReNEWable Port project application will help the State and the RIEDC, achieve several major goals as follows:

- 1) The ReNEWable Port expands the operation of the Port of Providence (ProvPort) while reducing trucking and carbon emissions in the Northeast Corridor.
- 2) Converts the energy use of Port operations 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 existing jobs and creates new jobs directly associated with the Port.

Lastly, the ReNEWable Port project helps the RIEDC realize its goal of "partnering for success" that expands the ProvPort operations, generating environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gases, and most importantly, creating much needed NEW jobs.

Sincerely,

Keith W. Stokes,
Executive Director

RI Economic Development Corporation