



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

ROOM 323, STATE HOUSE

PROVIDENCE

02903

GORDON D. FOX
SPEAKER
401-222-2466

September 3, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in strong support of an application from the City of Providence for grant funding for the expansion of the Port of Providence.

During the past year, a special study commission created by the General Assembly has been studying the potential economic opportunities in the development of port facilities in our state. Historically, Rhode Island has been a leading maritime and trading center for the nation. In the past few years, the state has made significant progress to expand and strengthen the position of its ports.

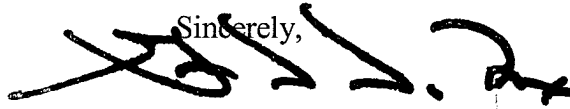
The Port of Providence can and will play an enormous role in this regard. Our state and capital city's geographic location, its coastal water resources and its land transportation connections and assets can enable Rhode Island to resume its place in waterborne transportation and to regain the attendant economic and environmental benefits.

Funding for the Providence grant request will be of great benefit to the city and the state, helping to reduce unemployment and creating long-term economic and employment opportunities. Approval of the grant request will help the Port of Providence increase the capacity to handle bulks materials. Expansion of the Port of Providence has the potential to create several thousand jobs at the port and throughout the region. This grant can help the Port of Providence transform itself into a modern, competitive marine cargo center, preserving current jobs and expanding the maritime-related workforce and export activities.

Our state is putting significant attention into improving our working ports and approval of this grant request would be a welcome addition to that effort. As a result, I hope you will give your utmost attention to the grant request by the City of Providence and decide that the benefits of this proposed expansion merit your support.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (401) 222-2466. Thank you for your consideration of this matter that is very critical to our state's economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon D. Fox', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Gordon D. Fox
Speaker

GDF/rad