

CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
NEW YORK

Democratic Leader

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

May 22, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to write in support of the Port of Oswego through its application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program for the Central New York Regional Agriculture Export Center Expansion project.

The Port of Oswego will repurpose two dome structures, which will increase the movement of agricultural products between the Port of Oswego, New York's only deep water Port on Lake Ontario, upstate New York and Connecticut and increase the Port's export business to international markets. The increased freight volumes through the Port will provide regional farmers better and lower cost transportation options that are more environmentally friendly. As well as supporting an increase in agri-business development, this project will create at least 12 full-time jobs, reduce overall emissions, reduce wear and tear on aging highway infrastructure, and in the short term provide an estimated \$11.5 million, or 25,000 man days, in construction jobs. These transportation improvements are necessary to advance the Port's and community's strategy to expand international business opportunities and retain and grow our important agricultural and manufacturing base.

The Port of Oswego is an important and strategically located transportation hub for raw materials and products transported into and out of the region. These transportation improvements are vital for the long-term sustainability of the port and to New York's economy. I applaud the Port of Oswego Authority for its foresight, and sincerely hope the application meets with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Coordinator in my Washington, DC office at 202-224-6542.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator