

**DALE W. STRONG**  
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND  
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May 9, 2024

Mr. Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Alabama State Port Authority DOT MARAD PIDP Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP).

It is my understanding that, if awarded, this grant funding will be utilized to complete Pier D2 at the Port of Mobile, which supports the state's steel industry and is a state-of-the-art steel coil handling facility operated by Alabama Steel Terminals. Presently, there is an incomplete portion of this berth that is unusable. Should the ASPA be awarded this grant, the funding would be used to complete approximately 200 linear feet of Pier D2 and connect it with Pier E. Completing this project would support the ASPA's strategic efforts to invest in and build out their facilities, ensuring the most efficient use of the state's assets.

The ASPA anticipates that this project, once complete, will generate additional economic activity and spur job growth across the state's 67 counties. According to a recent study, the Port of Mobile holds \$98 billion worth of annual statewide economic impact, generating 351,359 jobs across Alabama. Further investment in the Port will serve to increase its overall impact on the state economy.

In the interest of economic development, this project is crucial to maintaining the Port's operational efficiency. With the state experiencing rapid growth in its automotive manufacturing sector, this project is timely and aligns with Alabama's ongoing efforts to supply industry with effective means of material procurement. In addition to bolstering the state's automotive sector, the rehabilitated pier will support supply chains for industrial construction, infrastructure development, and other industries that rely on steel.

Therefore, I ask for your full and fair consideration of the ASPA's grant application to the DOT's PIDP. My office stands prepared to address any questions you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale W. Strong". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dale W. Strong  
Member of Congress