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United States Senate

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June 24, 2026

Administrator David Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Alabama Port Authority –
FY 2025 – 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program**

Dear Administrator Fink,

I am writing to express my strong support for the FY 2025 – 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) application led by Alabama Port Authority (APA) to advance the New Horizons Project. The total cost of this project is \$37.2 million, and APA has committed \$9.3 million as a 20% local match to this grant application. APA provides essential transportation services for Alabama customers and major Class I railroads on its 75-mile track network. In support of federal initiatives to improve railroad safety, efficiency, and reliability, this project will allow for critical capacity improvements to support rail connectivity across the Southeast and Midwest regions of the U.S.; as a result, addressing APA's railroad congestion caused by increased demand due to growing imports and exports in the region.

Depending on grant award and obligation, the New Horizons Project involves final engineering design, federal environmental approval, installation of approximately seven miles of new rail track, and automating flat switching yard conversion. Including final engineering and NEPA requirements, the project assumes 24 months for completion. I understand the project is designed to eliminate chokepoints and aging infrastructure that affects safe operations, economic losses, and operational efficiency. As noted within the 2026 National Freight Strategic Plan, short line infrastructure constraints are a modal challenge for the country. The implementation of this project will efficiently contribute to the improvement of the associated corridor network that can safely transport goods and improve reliability and resiliency. Federal investment in this project will help improve rail efficiency in the region and America.

I am confident the New Horizons Project aligns with national goals for transportation efficiency, safety, and economic growth, and will deliver tangible benefits to Alabama residents. This project ensures freight rail service continues to strengthen in the state, focusing on the improvement of rail efficiency in the region and America. For these reasons, I fully support the FY 2025 – 2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program application submitted by APA.

Sincerely,



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator