

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
128 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Funding

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As stakeholders associated with the freight industry, we are writing you in strong support of the \$1.25 billion FY 2016 funding level proposed by the President for the TIGER competitive grant program.

TIGER is a key funding source for freight projects that are not being funded in other ways and has been a vital program to rebuild our national infrastructure and address intermodal transportation funding challenges and needs.

From an investment perspective, the TIGER grant program has been a stimulus in helping define our nation's freight network. The successes of TIGER grants for freight-related projects highlight the important role ports and intermodal projects play in improving our national freight system and leveraging private sector funding. The annual TIGER process and its coordinated and collaborative planning requirements in the submission of eligible freight-related projects has served as a catalyst in bringing freight stakeholders to the table – along with additional funding.

For example, since its inception in 2009, TIGER maritime projects have received over \$500 million in federal funding while leveraging \$700 million in additional funding. The TIGER program has awarded \$1.1 billion in grant funding to 66 freight projects across the country. Other TIGER funded freight projects have also supported and enhanced the freight network that carries rail, truck and maritime cargo.

We believe continued funding related to a national freight strategy and the strengthening of freight competitive grant programs are at the heart of sustaining our competitiveness on the international stage, and strengthening of our nation's domestic economy and rate of job growth.

We urge the Committee to provide full funding for the President's FY 2016 TIGER request from the General Fund.

Sincerely,

American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)  
International Warehouse Logistics Association  
(IWLA)  
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders  
Association of America (NCBFAA)  
Association of Metropolitan Planning  
Organizations (AMPO)  
United States Maritime Alliance (USMX)  
North Atlantic Ports Association (NAPA)

National Association of Waterfront Employers  
(NAWE)  
The Associated General Contractors of America  
(AGC)  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
(ACEC)  
American Road and Transportation Builders  
Association (ARTBA)

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Full Committee  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Full Committee  
The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Full Committee  
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Full Committee