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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,  
OCEANS AND WILDLIFE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,  
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I write to respectfully request your attention and due consideration to ensuring that the Port Authority of Guam, and more broadly all the territorial governments, are deemed eligible to apply for and be awarded grants under the National Surface Transportation System (NSTS) authorized and appropriated for in Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5). This Act appropriated a total of \$1.5 billion for discretionary awards under the NSTS. Additionally, I respectfully request your due consideration of granting the Port Authority of Guam no less than \$30 million from the NSTS to make necessary improvements at the Port of Guam to enable facilitation of general trade and commerce, particularly cargo associated with the on-going military build-up.

The NSTS discretionary grant program authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to distribute grants to "State and local governments" for a variety of transportation projects including "port infrastructure investments". We are confident that this definition adequately covers the territories, including Guam, for eligibility to obtain competitive grants under this section. However, we ask that as the Department of Transportation develops its final implementation guidance for the NSTS grant program that the territories are explicitly made eligible to apply for these grants. Furthermore, I am confident that the term "port infrastructure investments" will include a wide range of infrastructure improvements that are needed at the Port of Guam, as well as many other ports across the country.

The Port of Guam is important to the economic prosperity and flow of goods to Guam. Moreover, the Port will become increasingly more important as the main point of entry for materials and goods needed to facilitate the construction of civilian and military projects for the military build-up on Guam over the next six years. In fact, the Department of Defense believes that the port could be a potential chokepoint for the delivery of materials, if necessary port infrastructure projects are not completed in a

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timely fashion. The Port Authority of Guam's 2008 Master Plan as well as Department of Defense briefings indicates that port capacity will double from 100,000 break-box cargo to over 200,000 boxes by 2013 and cement bulk imports will increase 5-fold from nearly 100,000 tons in 2007 to over 500,000 tons by 2012. The improvements needed to the Port of Guam are of national and strategic security importance for the entire United States.

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P.L. 110-417, Section 3512), I sponsored a provision that provided the Maritime Administration (MARAD) with authority to assist the Port Authority of Guam, vis-à-vis a Memorandum of Understanding, in conducting necessary improvements to the port's infrastructure. The provision was a result of tremendous interagency work by the Department of Defense, Interior and Transportation in indentifying a problem for the build-up and crafting an innovative solution. The Port of Guam Enterprise Improvement Program is like two other programs for Anchorage, Alaska and Hawaii that have MARAD assisting local governments in making port improvements. I believe that this statutory authorization should also be taken into consideration when final grant award determinations are made by the Department of Transportation.

The Port Authority of Guam master plan indicates that \$195 million is needed to improve the current port facilities and allow for expansion of piers and operations at the Port of Guam. MARAD expects that upwards of \$40 million in grant funds could be expended within 90 days of obligation for shovel-ready improvements at the Port of Guam. The remainder of funding for complete the master plan's objectives would require a comprehensive environmental impact study (EIS) for the expansion of the commercial port. Funding for improvements at the Port of Guam is critically important to our national defense and will enable us to sustain the military build-up on Guam.

I thank you for your attention and consideration of my request. I hope that the Port of Guam will be eligible for and receive funding through the NSTS discretionary grant program to help make necessary improvements. If you should have any questions regarding this request please contact Matthew Herrmann at [matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.herrmann@mail.house.gov) or at 202-222-1188.

Sincerely,

  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress