



Office of the Governor of Guam

P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932

TEL: (671) 472-8931 • FAX: (671) 477-4826 • EMAIL: governor@mail.gov.gu

Felix P. Camacho
Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

08 OCT 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the Port Authority of Guam's \$49.7 Million TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Håfa Adai! On behalf of the people of Guam, I am asking for your favorable consideration of the \$49.7 million Guam Port Improvement Project TIGER Grant application submitted by the Port Authority of Guam. This application is Guam's highest priority for the TIGER Grant program and the rapid implementation of this pivotal project is a top priority of my Administration.

Over the years, Guam's military defense posture has increased from a logistics support base to a forward-deployed, strategic military asset. In 2006, we were informed of the military's intention to increase its presence on Guam. That increase – which we now refer to as the Guam Military Buildup – is recognized as one of the largest efforts in military relocation and construction in recent history.

The magnitude of the buildup forced all of us to take a serious look at the opportunities and challenges associated with this aggressive plan. We recognize that Guam's only commercial port may cause a bottleneck in the timely execution of the military buildup if we don't take action. Because of this, we embarked on a modernization plan to transform our port into a world-class facility.

While the entire port modernization program calls for more than \$200 million in upgrades, this project is the essential first step and it is ready to go. It has received all legislative approvals and has widespread community support. The benefits generated by this stand-alone \$104 million project will improve the prosperity of Guam's residents and businesses for years to come.

Unfortunately, the capital investment required for a project of this magnitude is beyond Guam's independent financial capacity. The port and our people have limited financial resources, and a grant from USDOT's TIGER program is essential in order to bring this Strategic Port to conditions that can meet the near- and long-term needs of the U.S. military, our local community, and our regional users.

Mr. Secretary, the Port Authority of Guam is a 40-year-old facility that is in dire need of upgrades in order to ensure that the military buildup is a success. With your support we will be able to kick-start this

modernization program to meet the timelines for the military relocation without compromising the level of security or services that the port's users expect from us.

We are on verge of greatness at the port that will define the future for our community, our region and our military partners. However, that greatness will not be fulfilled if we don't join together with you on this urgent, transformational project.

Guam is where America's day begins. And now, with the military buildup, we are America's Gatekeepers. Please help us as we prepare for yet another opportunity to serve our great nation because what is good for Guam is good for America. Once again, I ask you for your positive consideration of the Port Authority of Guam's \$49.7 million TIGER application. Thank you and may God bless our great nation.

Sinseru yan Magâhet,



FELIX P. CAMACHO

I Maga' Lâhen Guahan

Governor of Guam

cc: Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture