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9/14/09
Port Authority of Guam
General Manager's Office
RECEIVED

Felix P. Camacho
Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

14 SEP 2009

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

RE: Port Authority of Guam's Application for \$49.7 Million TIGER Grants

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Håfa Adai! On behalf of the people of Guam, I am asking for your favorable consideration of the Port Authority of Guam's application for \$49.7 million in TIGER grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This application is a top priority of my Administration.

As you know, the Port Authority of Guam has partnered with MARAD to launch the most aggressive modernization program that this island has ever seen. Their efforts to upgrade the facility will meet the growing demands of our community and our region along with the needs of the Department of Defense during the military buildup.

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 has forced all of us to take a serious look at the opportunities and challenges that will occur because of this aggressive plan.

Given the accelerated schedules propelled in large part by the relocation of 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa, Japan, we recognize that the Port Authority of Guam may cause a bottleneck in executing this project in a timely fashion if we don't take action. That is why we embarked on an aggressive modernization plan to transform our port into a world-class facility that will meet the needs of the U.S. military and our local and regional users.

Unfortunately, the CIP resources required for a program of this magnitude are beyond Guam's normal capital growth abilities, and we need the assistance of the U.S. government to bring this critical seaport to the level that meets the needs of the U.S. military.

While our entire modernization program calls for more than \$200 million in upgrades over the next few years, much work has already been done on our modernization plan, and progress at the Port Authority of Guam is undeniable.

The port has already put together a specialized development team to assure the delivery of this important project and has engaged with MARAD to use its resources and experience in this critical project, as it seeks designation as a Strategic Port for the United States.

The Port Authority of Guam has contracted an Owner's Agent/Engineer team to oversee the Port Modernization Program, and, through the assistance of the Office of Economic Adjustment, they have completed the Port's Master Plan and financial feasibility studies. Our legislature approved the Port Authority of Guam's Master Plan, and I signed the bill into law. With that final approval demonstrating our community's widespread support of this plan, the Port Authority of Guam submitted its TIGER application to fund Phase I of this program.

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 comprising the level of security or services that our users expect from us.

We are on the 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 in this ambitious 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.

Sins eru yan Magåhet,



FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga' Låhen Guahan
Governor of Guam