

United States Senate

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

***Re: FY 2020 U. S. DOT Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants, Jefferson Parish –
Avondale Dock Conversion Project***

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you consider the application submitted by Jefferson Parish for their Avondale Dock Conversion Project. They are requesting \$10,000,000 million in Port Infrastructure Development Program grant funding and they will contribute 53 percent in matching funds.

The project for which funding is sought includes conversion of an aging wharf at the historic Avondale shipyard site to a modern cargo dock. The new dock, located in a Qualified Opportunity Zone on the west bank of the Mississippi River, could improve the capacity and efficiency of the facility. Also, the new dock will accommodate larger vessels—up to a 50-foot draft—without any dredging.

As a regional job creator and economic engine, the redevelopment of Avondale Industrial Marine District could improve transportation connectivity, generate economic recovery and new economic development, while creating job opportunities.

I respectfully ask for the full and fair consideration of Jefferson Parish's application within the applicable laws and regulations, thoroughly and carefully on its merits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
United States Senator