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October 18, 2011

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

Re: 2011 TIGER Grant Application  
Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans  
*Mississippi River Intermodal Terminal and Yard Improvements*

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I writing in support of the application submitted by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans to the U. S. Department of Transportation for funding under the 2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The *Mississippi River Intermodal Terminal and Yard Improvements* project seeks to construct a new intermodal rail freight terminal and paving improvements to enhance cargo operations at the Port of New Orleans. Similar applications have been submitted under the previous TIGER programs.

The proposal is of national significance and is distinguished from other proposals in that it capitalizes on existing strategic advantages only present in New Orleans. For example, the Port of New Orleans is the only deep water port in the United States with six Class I railroads. This involves 132,000 miles of connecting rail tracks situated within a 14,500 mile inland waterway that serves 30 states (including Louisiana) and 6 Canadian provinces.

The project is intended to facilitate the movement of marine and rail cargo, stimulate international commerce, promote sustainability by reducing congestion and the carbon footprint of regional and national transportation systems, enhance safety, and increase energy efficiency with modal conversion to improved port rail and marine services. Investment in this project will create jobs and create long-term economic benefits to the nation.

I am respectfully asking for your full consideration of this grant application by the Port of New Orleans within the applicable time delays, laws, and regulations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end, with a smaller, more detailed signature underneath it.

**Cedric Richmond**  
Member of Congress