

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Georgia Ports Authority's USDOT PIDP grant application for the **Colonel's Island Berth #4 Project** in Glynn County, Georgia. This project will construct a new vessel berth that is needed to handle the growing volume of U.S. automotive exports and imports moving through the Port.

Colonel's Island Auto Terminal presently has 637 acres that are leased or sold to auto processors or OEM's. There is an additional 472 acres available that have been permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for development of new Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro/Ro) business. The terminal is located 2.5 miles from Interstate 95 (North/South) via U.S. Highway 17, and just one hour south of Interstate 16 (East/West) and one hour north of Interstate 10 (East/West). The facility is also served by two Class 1 railroads, Norfolk Southern and CSX. Several auto manufacturing plants throughout the U.S. are directly connected to Colonel's Island by way of these rail networks allowing thousands of new U.S. made vehicles to be exported around the world each month.

As a dedicated Ro/Ro facility, the terminal is the second busiest port in the U.S. for total Ro/Ro cargo. Owned and operated by the Georgia Ports Authority, the facility operates with just three berths at this time. Due to the high utilization of these existing berths caused by increased vessel traffic and the overall larger size of ships now in service, a fourth berth is greatly needed. A permit has already been received from the United States Corps of Engineers clearing the way for this project to begin. Colonel's Island Terminal ranks not only among the nation's largest auto facilities but is also one of the country's most environmentally conscious. By adding a fourth berth, vessel turn times in the port area will decrease as will dwell time at anchor waiting for berths to become vacant. This means ships will arrive and depart faster with fewer overall vessel exhaust emissions in the region, improving air quality.

The infrastructure improvements funded by this grant application and to be undertaken by the Georgia Ports Authority will allow for future growth of business. Additionally, this project will help create the immediate and long-term family wage jobs, and expanded economic development

intended by the PIDP programs while insuring maximum return on previous federal and state investments.

I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration for this grant. It will yield significant long-term economic benefits for Georgia, and the Southeastern United States region, as well as the entire nation. If you have any questions about this letter or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (770) 694.7828.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock". The signature is stylized and includes a flourish at the end.

Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator