

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: *Lake Michigan Marine Highway Transportation Energy Project* Grant Application PID2025001034

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's application for a federal Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant from the Marine Administration to help fund the *Lake Michigan Marine Highway Transportation Energy Project*.

Wisconsin relies on refined fuels to power our transportation network, making them a cornerstone of the state's \$450 billion economy. U.S. Venture, headquartered in Appleton, WI, has supplied Wisconsinites with gasoline and diesel fuel for more than 70 years. In 2016, a 110-mile pipeline that moved this fuel from Milwaukee to the Green Bay Terminal Complex was decommissioned, threatening the fuel supply for Northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 2017, the owner of the pipeline estimated that reconstructing it would cost \$300 million, a sum that was not economically viable. That cost has assuredly grown in the intervening years, making replacement unfeasible.

Since the pipeline closed, diesel-powered tanker trucks have hauled fuel from Milwaukee to Green Bay. On average, 75 tanker trucks per day travel the I-43 corridor in Eastern Wisconsin to supply the Green Bay terminal. Access to a reliable refined fuel supply remains essential to our businesses and families, but having that many tanker trucks on the road makes other travel less safe, increases unhealthy diesel exhaust, and increases the wear and tear on our roadways.

Thankfully, an innovative, long-term solution for transporting fuel is ready to move forward: With support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Venture and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will extend a fuel line at the General Mitchell International Airport (MKE) six miles along I-794 to Port Milwaukee and add additional fuel storage at Port Milwaukee. This will allow fuel to be loaded onto barges at Port Milwaukee for transport across our underutilized Lake Michigan maritime highway to Green Bay.

A single barge can carry approximately 4.2 million gallons of fuel, or the equivalent of 500 tanker truck loads. Barging fuel from Milwaukee to Green Bay would significantly reduce exhaust, noise, congestion and road wear. This project would also bring in more revenue for both Port Milwaukee and the Port of Green Bay, in alignment with the goals and priorities of the ports and WisDOT. Further, it would increase the region's access to domestically produced fuel and protect the reliability of our essential fuel supply from the weather disruptions that often occur in our state.

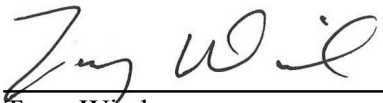
This infrastructure investment even creates a new fuel supply option for the entire country by connecting to existing rail access at Port Milwaukee. This would add a new domestic fuel access point for regions throughout the United States, especially when they face acute supply disruptions.

In summary, we urge you to support federal funding for the *Lake Michigan Marine Highway Transportation Energy Project* because it:

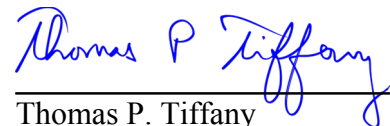
- Immediately improves and safeguards the reliability of the refined fuel supply in Northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- Increases the region's – and even the nation's – access to domestically produced fuel.
- Improves the economic viability of both Port Milwaukee and Port of Green Bay.
- Protects essential intermodal infrastructure and improves roadway safety.
- Supports employment in and around the ports.
- Significantly reduces diesel exhaust and improves air quality.
- Accomplishes all of this through an innovative public/private partnership.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge you to approve the grant application.

Sincerely,



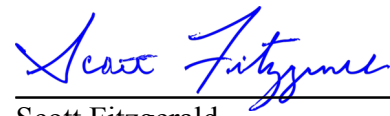
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