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February 5, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Honorable Duffy:

I am writing to provide my utmost support for the Riverport West project submitted by the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority (PMCRA) for funding consideration through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

McCracken County is uniquely located at the confluence of the two largest rivers in our nation's Marine Highway System - the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers - and at the junction of three states, making it an ideal location for federal investments to conduct the necessary planning and design work to prepare the site for construction. Paducah Riverport West will serve as an extension of the main public port, which has leased nearly all parcels available, demonstrating the need for an expansion of the community's current capacity.

As you know, the region has a high volume of manufactured goods and agricultural products that are shipped by domestic barge companies headquartered in Paducah. The project site will be strategically located adjacent to a 1,000-acre Triple Rail Site, which is primed for industrial opportunity. Additionally, the community has also recently announced several major economic development investments, including two planned uranium enrichment facilities and been selected by the Department of Energy to house an artificial intelligence (AI) data center at the site of the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). Due to Riverport West's strategic location just two miles from the site of this industrial development, this new facility will be in close proximity to support current and future economic prospects.

As McCracken County and the surrounding area continues to experience increasing levels of inland waterway traffic, I am confident this project will allow them to meet their needs and establish a stable shipping method for American products.

I commend PMCRA and their community partners for their leadership and vision in pursuing this transformative project. I am supportive of these efforts, which will provide the region with enhanced access to waterway connections that would benefit this deserving region for years to come. Please contact my Grants Coordinator, Mary-Carter Barton ([mary-carter.barton@mail.house.gov](mailto:mary-carter.barton@mail.house.gov)), if I may be of further support throughout this process.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Member of Congress