



**ST. MARY
INDUSTRIAL
GROUP**

May 9, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: Letter of Support from City of Morgan City, Louisiana
2015 TIGER VII Discretionary Grant Application (MCHTD)**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I serve as the president of the St. Mary Industrial Group, a non-profit organization of business and industry that incorporated in the State of Louisiana in 1975. The organization functions primarily as a political action group focusing its efforts on community needs in the area of industrial, economic and employee/employer concerns in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Because of our relationship with the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (Port of Morgan City) and because we believe that the Port is in an enviable position to expand its business capacity, I am writing in full support of their application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2015 *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VII Discretionary Grant Program*.

I understand that the port district is requesting funds for a major infrastructure project with estimated costs totaling \$15 million; and, therefore, the port is requesting \$12 million in *TIGER* funding and will provide a non-federal match of \$3 million. *TIGER* funds will be used to design, engineer and construct over 64,000 ft² of additional dock area at the port, providing immediate economic and safety benefits.

The importance of this project to the port is clearly evident. Extending and enhancing its dock will allow the port to bring in new business, which will impact the entire nation. An investment by the DOT into the port's FY 2015 *TIGER* project can truly help all of us capitalize on the recent success the port has had in securing export/import business. In fact, their success has caused other shipping companies to inquire about using the Port as a possible location to ship their goods and cargo. Unfortunately, the port's limited dock space prevents them from fully capitalizing on their location and recent success; and, it restricts the amount of business that can be conducted at the port. *TIGER* funding rectifies this problem and enables the port to increase the amount of business conducted at the port, eventually providing new jobs in the region, state and nation.

In closing, Secretary Foxx, thank you for your consideration in this matter. Again, please know that I am in full-support of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District's FY 2015 *TIGER* application because it improves transportation, safety and economic development in the state and nation. I ask that you see fit to fully-fund their project.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Roussel
President

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