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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Letter of Support for TradePort California**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) strongly supports TradePort California, a designated USDOT Regional Infrastructure Accelerator project. Considered by policymakers and industry as a transformational project that will create fundamental changes to supply chain efficiency, logistics, air quality, transportation planning, and economic competitiveness in California, TradePort California is the development of a large-scale multimodal logistics ecosystem. The three main elements of this 425-mile-long system include 1) a new port-to-market intermodal rail system, 2) the development of a high-volume system spine for clean trucks, and 3) the development of large-scale investment districts at new intermodal/truck mobility hubs.

This letter is expressly written to indicate support for the TradePort Development Team's work to advance the first strategic projects. An extended partnership with the USDOT and the Build America Bureau (BAB) will build on the substantial progress made in the first phase by collaborating on the actual implementation and project financing for core projects such as the first two Truck Mobility Complexes, associated clean energy and logistics infrastructure, smart truck parking and two skills academies. The TradePort Development Team and BAB have closely collaborated over the past year to develop overall project plans, conceptual designs, preliminary engineering, advance the formation of the delivery entity, and community engagement process. With the BAB's support, the project is now recognized by a wide range of public entities and policymakers, as well as a spectrum of category-specific risk capital investors. Due to the BAB's support and involvement, the State of California is now considering significant investments in the project. The next critical step is to coalesce into project and site-specific project financing strategies. A re-designation would create a showcase for actual project delivery.

TradePort California is the product of a unique partnership structure comprised of a tactical combination of public and private entities. With Global Logistics Development

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Partners as the private project development manager, the Fresno Council Governments is acting as public project coordinator, representing several Councils of Governments from the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento regions: Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Sacramento. Beyond this core list of partners, there is a long and wide roster of supporting partners from key sectors (seaports, rail, air quality management districts, utilities, clean energy, education, truck fleet operators, truck manufacturers, local government, and economic development) including those organizations listed in an attachment to this letter.

TradePort California is designed to deliver a next-generation ecosystem for goods movement that will radically boost the economic competitiveness of California's economy while vastly improving air quality and highway road congestion. The project is serving as a national model for multi-modal systems of integrated clean and highly efficient truck, rail, and cargo facilities with three additional TradePorts currently under development along the I-40 corridor in Arizona and New Mexico. As acknowledged by the USDOT and numerous trade organizations and shippers, the project will play an important strategic role in increasing national supply chain efficiency and will help address the overall challenges to our national supply chain system by creating efficiencies at the San Pedro seaports complex. In California, this project will serve as an integrated extension of the San Pedro seaports with their largest and most proximate import and export market region.

TradePort California is in perfect alignment with the State of California's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Investment (CAPTI) which focuses on moving transportation in California to a sustainable energy platform. TradePort California will directly cause reductions to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollutants in the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento regions, and southern California, specifically in those communities which are located near state highways, truck routes, and seaports. The project will also improve traveler safety on State highways and local roads as more goods/freight movement is moved to rail, lessening roadway congestion and decreasing fatal collisions.

Via the development of TradePorts and Satellite TradePorts, TradePort California will create 125,000 well-paying jobs throughout a large area of the State. These jobs will be in an array of sectors including manufacturing and logistics. In many cases, this investment will reinforce existing sectors where the State has a competitive advantage, such as agriculture and food production. In other cases, TradePort California's foundation as a clean energy logistics infrastructure project will create massive new competitive opportunities for economic development investments that are enhanced by vastly improved market connectivity, investment site locations and sector-specific increased supply chain efficiency. The project creates significant enhancements to the State's overall economic competitiveness, especially for the inland regions of California that have struggled to create economic opportunity for their residents. TradePort California will be an important platform for improving economic equity and social justice in the Central Valley Region of California.

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TradePort California will directly address the critical national supply chain challenges and further propel California's sustainability, social equity, environmental, and economic efforts as it aligns perfectly with the following State of California policy objectives:

1. Development of a more efficient national/state supply chain system.
2. Substantial reductions in GHG and air criteria pollutants in California.
3. Increased economic competitiveness in the San Joaquin Valley & Sacramento regions.
4. Reduced VMT, congestion, highway & road maintenance costs, and improved traffic safety.
5. Improved social equity & economic opportunity for historically disadvantaged regions.
6. Improved availability of needed container equipment for agricultural exports.
7. Leverage of public sector infrastructure investment that attracts private sector investment.

The MCTC is pleased to submit this letter of support. TradePort California is a vital element of California's future prosperity and integral to improving environmental conditions and our supply chain system.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission