

April 13, 2022



Mayor John Handeland
CITY OF NOME
P.O. Box 281
Nome, AK 99762

RE: SUPPORT FOR USDOT RAISE GRANT APPLICATION TO FUND THORNBUSH LAYDOWN SITE DEVELOPMENT

Dear Mayor Handeland,

It was exciting to hear news the Corps has received their Work Plan funds to construct phase 1 of the Arctic Deep Draft Port project. What a milestone achievement for the City of Nome!! I'm sure you, your team and the citizens of Nome are excited to see this project come to fruition. I am happy to hear the design is moving along well, and that you have corresponding onshore projects that you are also planning.

The Port of Nome has seen a large increase in demand from the maritime industry in recent years, both on-land and on-water. Over time our crews have witnessed a growing need for additional lay down space at the facility, and seeing this is being actively pursued is a relief as the congestion brings conflict and delays to all users of the Port. As a multi-use facility, there is significant need for additional laydown space for not only the seasonal aspects of moving cargo, equipment and loose bulk materials, but vessel and equipment repair, freight distribution, breaking down outbound freight, and staging high volume loads both as inbound and outbound. During causeway construction, there will be no staging available. For every Barge we will need space for an additional 100-300 containers which we currently don't have space for. Thornbush is the answer to this space. Having access to these expanded uplands directly impacts projects across the region by reducing delays that enable shippers to make good use of the window of time available in a compressed, ice-free season.

I congratulate you and your team on all of your hard work, and respectfully support the City of Nome in your application to obtain funds to complete development of the Thornbush Laydown Site, an 18-acre pad critically needed to support increased demand at the Port. All of which continue to signify the importance of the Port of Nome, as an Arctic hub in support of serving the region, the state, national security and the Arctic maritime fleet.

Thank you for your consideration and work on this important project.

Respectfully,

Brian Ward

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Ward', is written over the printed name.

Marine Operations Manager
Alaska Marine Lines/Lynden