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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

March 5, 2012

Mr. John P. LaRue
Executive Director
Port of Corpus Christi
P. O. Box 1541
Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Dear Mr. LaRue:

I am writing to express my support for your grant application submitted to USDOT under the TIGER IV Discretionary Grant Program. The \$17.5 million rail project will bring significant benefits to the South Texas region, the State of Texas and our Nation.

The Nueces River Rail Yard will expand the rail infrastructure and transportation network in and out of the Port of Corpus Christi. I am aware of the critical need for our port to have an efficient rail system to meet existing capacity demands and expand into new growth markets. The efficient movement of agricultural products, wind energy equipment, petrochemical products and military equipment all provide long term benefits to Texas and the Nation. In addition, new markets such as the export of metallurgical and thermal coals, shipments of FracSand for Eagle Ford Shale and crude shipments into the region are creating new economic activity and jobs. The rail improvements will also help sustain the new growth into the future with the completion of the Panama Canal expansion in 2014. Improved rail infrastructure will prepare the Port of Corpus Christi to handle the increased shipments from larger, post-Panamax ships. Shippers and the American people will benefit from lower transportation costs, improved service reliability and reduced transportation times.

Ports are critical links to our nation's trading partners and their infrastructure investment needs should be a primary focus within our nation's transportation plan. I understand the Nueces River Rail Yard project will also have an immediate and direct impact by opening up construction jobs at a time when construction development and employment is low due to the economy. I encourage USDOT to give this application favorable consideration.

I would appreciate your efforts to keep me informed as the application process moves forward. Thank you.

With warm personal regards,



BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress