

July 17, 2018

Mr. Sean McMaster
Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Dear Mr. McMaster:

I write on behalf of my constituents with the City of Paducah (Paducah)—in coordination with the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority (PM CRA)—regarding their competitive grant application with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Fiscal Year 2018 BUILD Discretionary Grant Program.

As you may know, Paducah, Kentucky—which lies at the confluence of the Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers and is in close proximity to the Mississippi River—serves as the center of our country’s vital inland waterways network. Moreover, the U.S. government designated the area a Foreign Trade Zone due in part to Paducah’s importance to the movement of goods in our country. In 2017, the Paducah Riverport also received a “Marine Highway” designation from the U.S. Maritime Administration for its container on barge service along the M-55 and M-65 Marine Highway Corridors. I was proud to support both of these well-deserved designations, and today I write in support of Paducah’s BUILD grant application.

My constituents have informed me that if awarded, this funding would support Paducah’s “Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah’s Maritime Hub” project. I am told the funding would facilitate the development of a now vacant space—known as *Paducah Commons*—on the riverfront to provide greater accessibility between Paducah’s downtown and the river to encourage economic development. As part of this project, funding would also support the construction of an excursion dock and steamboat landing on the river to address transportation needs and build on prior public-private investments. Finally, I am told funding would support the development of nine acres of property for a container and general cargo trans-loading yard in an effort to further attract economic development—such as manufacturing and distribution centers—to Western Kentucky.

As our nation continues on a path of unsustainable debt, it is more important than ever that we in Congress, and you in the Administration, work to ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely. It is with this in mind that I draw your attention to Paducah’s application, which I believe merits your full and fair review.

Page 2
July 17, 2018

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/mr

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

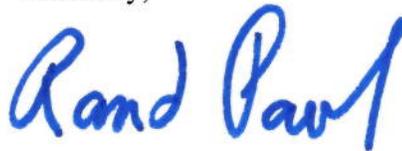
Dear Secretary Chao:

I am contacting you on behalf of the City of Paducah regarding their application for the 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The BUILD Grant will assist the City of Paducah and the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority in its efforts to improve inland waterways infrastructure and redevelop certain vacant areas in the vicinity of the Paducah Riverfront. Among other benefits, the planned project will expand containerized barge operations and create a public gathering space that will be known as "Paducah Commons." The BUILD Grant will no doubt aid further economic development in the region and greatly benefit the residents of McCracken and the surrounding counties. Accordingly, I believe the City of Paducah's application deserves full and fair consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Upon the completion of this process, please contact Adam Salmon on my staff at (202) 228-0112, or by facsimile at (202) 228-3796.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator

JAMES COMER

1ST DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

1513 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3115

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1701

DISTRICT OFFICES:

200 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE F
TOMPKINSVILLE, KY 42167

300 SOUTH 3RD STREET
PADUCAH, KY 42003

67 NORTH MAIN STREET
MADISONVILLE, KY 42431

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
United States Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Paducah, Kentucky to the Department of Transportation's BUILD grant program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub." The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understand the value of the inland waterways and their impact on regional economic development. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and surrounding communities. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has invested a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and innovation of river-related activities from the revitalization of the downtown riverfront to the continued development of the riverport.

The City of Paducah now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As Congressman for the First District of Kentucky, I support this project because it will provide the region with unfettered access to regional and national inland waterway connections that would benefit this deserving rural area for years to come. Such a project would be especially advantageous to Western Kentucky manufacturing and transportation industries, as the existing regional infrastructure is in need of revitalization and expansion to meet the increasing dependence on inland waterway-based shipping methods.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this proposal. Please reach out to my Grants Coordinator, Sarah Coffman (sarah.coffman@mail.house.gov), for further information.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Member of Congress



Bob Leeper

McCracken County Judge Executive

McCracken County Courthouse
300 South Seventh Street
Paducah, KY 42003-1700
Office: (270) 444-4707
Fax: (270) 444-4731

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the McCracken County, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the Riverport.

Our Community now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding Riverport business and container on barge growth.

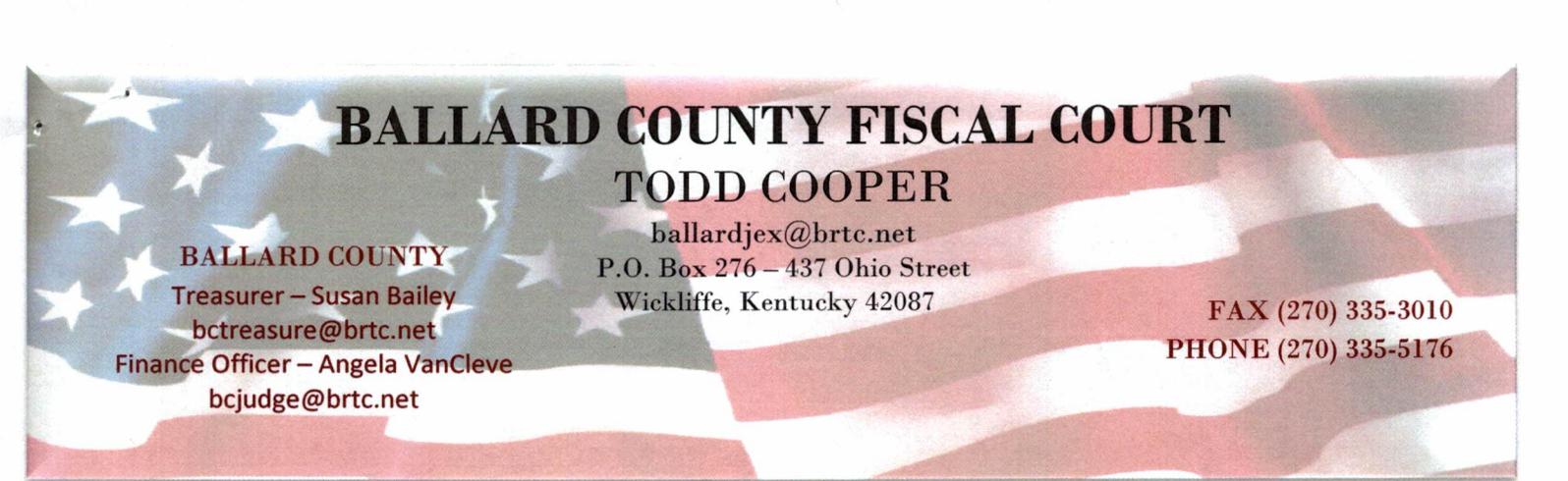
As McCracken County Judge Executive, I support this project because of the need for these improvements to enhance the economic viability of our region. The riverfront from end to end is a resource we must develop.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the Riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

McCracken County Judge Executive



BALLARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

TODD COOPER

ballardjex@brtc.net

P.O. Box 276 – 437 Ohio Street

Wickliffe, Kentucky 42087

BALLARD COUNTY

Treasurer – Susan Bailey

bctreasure@brtc.net

Finance Officer – Angela VanCleve

bcjudge@brtc.net

FAX (270) 335-3010

PHONE (270) 335-5176

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As Ballard County Judge Executive, I support this project because it helps in the furtherance of economic development for the region. It also helps the inland water ways and marine industry thrive.

When the Region works together as one unit, it allows for more growth and thus more jobs for our residents. We pray you give this request your utmost consideration in BUILD funding.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Cooper", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Cooper, Ballard County Judge/Executive



July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's (KY) Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1,000 member partners, we are writing in support of the grant application for the Department of Transportation BUILD grant for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub" in Paducah, Kentucky.

The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understand the value of the inland waterways. Our community embraces not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City and our region. The Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments, has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the "riverfront to the riverport."

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals and visitors to the riverfront, attract more tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

We urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for the past support you have provided to our community.

Sincerely,

Leon Owens
Chairman of the Board
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

Sandra Wilson
President/CEO
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As President/CEO of Paducah Economic Development, I support this project because options for continued economic development growth and retention is a vital part of the continued growth of Western, KY. I am confident this projects helps make our region more competitive.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the Riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SD", is written over a faint, circular watermark or stamp.

Scott Darnell
President/CEO
Paducah Economic Development

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application of Paducah, Kentucky. Paducah's grant application focuses on three main areas: 1) Improving river-related bulk handling infrastructure, 2) Providing linkages between our community and the Ohio River and 3) Maximizing river-based tourism opportunities through improved infrastructure. As Board Chair of Paducah Riverfront Development Advisory Board (PRDA), I am primarily familiar and concerned with the latter two.

PRDA's mission and focus is to fully exercise the benefits of being a river-based community that is steeped in the culture, architecture and amenities that make Paducah unique. To that end, we have developed a riverfront park that will serve as the nexus of our community and our waterways. Unfortunately, we are left with contiguous areas that, while important to our master plan, are prohibitively expensive to develop given our resources. The plans for these areas include expanded public space and a pier for mooring large river-based excursion vessels. Quite simply, while today we have a very nice park, the opportunity is to lever that into a true destination for Paducahans and those who appreciate the cultural tourism that earned Paducah a UNESCO Creative City distinction.

While I understand that you and your office have no lack of deserving applicants, I am certain that no community has a better, more unified understanding of what this grant would provide than Paducah, Kentucky. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Brockenborough
Board Chair
Paducah Riverfront Development Advisory Board

INGRAM BARGE COMPANY

DANIEL P. MECKLENBORG
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER & SECRETARY
TELEPHONE 615.298.8209
E-FAX 615.695.3209



ONE BELLE MEADE PLACE
4400 HARDING PIKE - P.O. BOX 23049
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205-2290

August 2, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of Ingram Barge Company ("Ingram"), I am writing in support of the City of Paducah's Department of Transportation BUILD grant application titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". As the nation's largest dry cargo barge transportation company, Ingram fully understands the value of the inland waterways for the essential commerce of Western Kentucky. The inland waterways have generated incredible economic opportunities for the City of Paducah and for the entire region.

As one of Paducah's largest employers, Ingram strongly supports this project both for its value to the continued development of Paducah's riverfront but also for the prospect of creating a container on barge center at the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport. The riverport is uniquely situated at the confluence of the Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio Rivers and, with proper support and development, has a chance to play a pivotal role in the growth of container movements on the inland waterways.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

Ingram strongly believes that this program will further connect the Paducah community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I respectfully request your support for this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Mecklenborg", written over a horizontal line.



1002 MEDICAL DRIVE
P.O. BOX 588
MAYFIELD, KY 42066-0588
Phone: 270-247-7171
Fax: 270-251-6110
purchase.add@purchaseadd.org

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

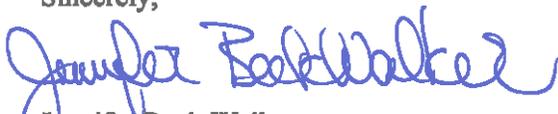
On behalf of the Purchase Area Development District (PADD), we are pleased to submit this letter of support for the City of Paducah and Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority's joint effort to apply for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

The PADD is one of in a network of 15 area development districts serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky by working to advance local, state and regional priorities. These districts were formed through state legislation to assist in planning, coordination and implementation of a variety of services, including transportation and economic development.

Lastly, we feel this program of projects will further connect the community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Beck Walker
Executive Director



July 10, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As Chairman, I support this project because our regional approach supports all efforts to increase awareness to our area and especially utilization of our mighty rivers. The rivers are the future of our area and our country. The river will connect us to the global economy and increase the number of visitors to our area. This will allow the region to grow and prosper.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pace
Chairman

297 Kentucky Ave., Suite 1
Kevil, KY 42053
270-462-2394



Carlisle County Fiscal Court

Greg Terry, County Judge Executive

985 US 62 • P.O. Box 279 • Bardwell, KY 42023

Phone: (270) 628-5451 • Fax: (270) 628-0190 • Cell: (270) 445-0051

Email: judge@ccfcky.com

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments have put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As Carlisle County Judge Executive, I support this project because I understand how important it is to continue the effort to expand and grow our area in Western Kentucky. This project has the potential to create much needed jobs in our community. Low unemployment rates would keep our younger generation from moving off. Also, the increase in industry would benefit our local school systems.

It is critically important for this region to stimulate job growth and capital investment. Clearly, we have an opportunity to do just that by investing in port infrastructure to help maintain traffic along the region's waterways and strengthen attractiveness to global business.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Terry". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Terry
Judge Executive

July 11, 2018

Department of Transportation
Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant

Grant Review Committee:

Paducah has long been known as a cultural destination across the United States and internationally. Paducah was admitted into the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2013 as the third U.S. Creative City, a prestigious membership that includes only nine U.S. cities today and 180 cities around the globe.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to strengthen cooperation among cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development as regards economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. By joining the Network, cities acknowledge their commitment to sharing best practices, developing partnerships that promote creativity and the cultural industries, strengthening participation in cultural life and integrating culture in urban development plans. The UCCN covers seven creative fields: Crafts & Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music. *Paducah's application to join the Creative Cities Network was based on the theme of Crafts & Folk Art, the art of quilting ... an art that developed from the thriftiness of early settlers reusing cloth and combining it with stitches from the old world. Truly more than something to keep you warm.*

Located at the center of the inland waterways, Paducah played an important part in the growth of our nation. The city was, and still is, a center for trade, medical services and cultural entertainment. ~~The rivers brought those with the dream of making a better life for themselves. They they first came by canoe, flatboat and steamboat. Soon they came by train and auto --U.S. Route 60 from Virginia to Arizona, U.S. Route from El Paso to Niagara Falls, and today, along Interstate 24, following the route of the old NC&STL (the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway). These travel opportunities helped define Paducah. The City's heritage and prosperity was built upon the diversity of the people, their traditions, history making events and industries afforded by transportation. This trend continues today. The National Quilt Museum of the United States continues to celebrate today's quilters as the craft as evolved into a fine art.~~

Culture gives charter to people and shapes the nature of a community – the values of the people, their attitudes and goals have led to the formation of culture ... culture is the oxygen of cities.

Page 2

The goals of the UCCN and the objectives of the City of Paducah go hand in hand. The culture of the river is the anchor of Paducah's creative industry. The creative people continue to be drawn to the river and the heritage of those before them. The missing piece of Paducah's downtown is the link to the river. The local citizens have paved the way with more than 50 floodwall murals depicting the history of Paducah. Public/private partnerships are evident throughout downtown with River Discovery Center and Carson Center for Performing Arts as perfect examples. The City has invested in the development of the riverfront but the final touch is needed. BUILD would allow the citizens and visitors to participate in the culture of the rivers on a daily basis.

Being a recipient of a BUILD grant would give Paducah the resources to further establish Paducah as a leader in using creative placemaking as a tool for innovative economic development and for participating in the international cultural tourism scene.

Sincerely,



Mary Hammond, CDME
Executive Director

Hannan Supply COMPANY.....



1565 North Eighth Street • P.O Box 270 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002-0270 • Phone 270-442-5456

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application of Paducah, Kentucky. Paducah's grant application focuses on three main areas: 1) Improving river-related bulk handling infrastructure, 2) Providing linkages between our community and the Ohio River and 3) Maximizing river-based tourism opportunities through improved infrastructure. As Board Chair of Paducah Riverfront Development Advisory Board (PRDA), I am primarily familiar and concerned with the latter two.

PRDA's mission and focus is to fully exercise the benefits of being a river-based community that is steeped in the culture, architecture and amenities that make Paducah unique. To that end, we have developed a riverfront park that will serve as the nexus of our community and our waterways. Unfortunately, we are left with contiguous areas that, while important to our master plan, are prohibitively expensive to develop given our resources. The plans for these areas include expanded public space and a pier for mooring large river-based excursion vessels. Quite simply, while today we have a very nice park, the opportunity is to lever that into a true destination for Paducahans and those who appreciate the cultural tourism that earned Paducah a UNESCO Creative City distinction.

While I understand that you and your office have no lack of deserving applicants, I am certain that no community has a better, more unified understanding of what this grant would provide than Paducah, Kentucky. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Brockenborough
Board Chair
Paducah Riverfront Development Advisory Board



Marshall County Judge / Executive's Office

Brad Warning
Deputy Judge / Executive
brad.warning@marshallcountky.gov

Kevin Neal
Judge / Executive
kevin.neal@marshallcountky.gov

Desiree Hermsillo
Administrative Assistant / Fiscal Court Clerk
desiree.hermsillo@marshallcountky.gov

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As Marshall County Judge/Executive, I support this project because of the impact it would have in our region and the benefit not only to the City of Paducah and McCracken County, but also to Marshall County. Our river industries have flourished for years with the maritime operations.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kevin Neal, Marshall County Judge/Executive



July 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding riverport business and container on barge growth.

As President, I support this project because our regional approach supports all efforts to increase awareness to our area and especially utilization of our mighty rivers. The rivers are the future of our area and our country. The river will connect us to the global economy and increase the number of visitors to our area. This will allow the region to grow and prosper.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

175 Freedom Blvd, Suite 1
Keokuk, Kentucky 42053
270-462-2394
wave@brtc.net



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of the US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 17, 2018

RE: Paducah, KY application for BUILD funds

Dear Madam Secretary,

We are an overnight river cruise company that currently operates two large passenger vessels on the Mississippi and Ohio River basins. The *American Queen* carries 420 passengers and the *American Duchess* carries 166 passengers. We plan to launch another large overnight cruise vessel very soon. AQSC currently employs well over 500 Americans and will be adding staff in support of this planned growth. Our current fleet is operating at close to 100% occupancy.

Our itineraries touch towns and cities along the river bringing economic development and showcasing the heartland of America. We currently bring thousands of guests annually to Paducah and expect this number to grow as we add capacity. We create and sustain local jobs, support families' incomes, attract interest in tourism, provide national and international exposure and even encourage our guests to return to these ports of call. An issue we constantly face is the deteriorating (or in some cases non-existence of) infrastructure along the journey.

For this reason, we strongly support Paducah in their application for a 2018 BUILD request for a proposed Excursion Dock and expanded Commons facility there. As a US Flagged operator of vessels, our goal is to encourage Americans to vacation domestically. To that end, we need to provide a world-class alternative to their European and other international river cruising options. Construction of an inviting multi-use pedestrian dock will help visitors to spend money locally in Paducah, patronizing their local shops and visiting the many other attractions there.

We are pleased to offer our support of their application. Please let us know if there are any questions we can help answer on their behalf.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Sykes".

Ted L. Sykes
President & COO
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Cell: (901) 834-8282
Fax: (901) 654-2541
Email: TSykes@aqsc.com
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MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business



**Department of
Management Marketing &
Business Administration**

*Accredited by AACSB-International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
Undergraduate Business Accredited Since 1976 MBA Accredited Since 1981 MSIS Accredited Since 2008*

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the Distinguished Hutchen's Professor in the Bauernfeind College of Business at Murray State University (MSU) and member of the board of advisors for the MSU Center of International Business & Trade located at the MSU campus, I am writing in support of our regions initiative to secure a grant. The grant titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub" from the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application fund, is critical for not only Paducah, but our region and educational institutions as well.

I had the privilege of living in Paducah, during its most dramatic change to its downtown area that resulted in neighborhood transformations that reduced crime and drug use, it is very near and dear to our region to continue to advance the offerings and opportunities for not only the Paducah community but also the region it serves. This expansion allows us to continue to connect our students and support the region with workforce development opportunities leveraging the region's resources of waterways and strategic partnerships.

The strategic partnerships in the Paducah and West Kentucky have turned grants into highly successful investments. The area's most recent partnership is the establishment of the Center for International Business & Trade (<https://www.murraystate.edu/cibt/>). The Center is a partnership among businesses, government and academics dedicated to planning for the needs of future generations through collaborative networks designed to leverage our regions' tangible and intangible resources to assist business development and education through innovation, international business and trade. This unique Center, located on the Murray State University Campus in Paducah is the hub for key resources, services, and information necessary to innovate and prosper in the global arena. The addition of the "Riverport to Riverfront" initiative would further provide an enabling environment for a variety of businesses to thrive from tourist to industry. This initiative is a win for the community as well as our students as our partnership in the region seeks to ensure employability of students upon graduation, as well as retooling workers to ensure effective transitions to the ever-changing business needs. This program of projects will further connect our regional educational initiatives, economic development initiatives that will draw students, businesses, and provide jobs for our region, and state. Please give this the attention and consideration, as it is vital to our community.

Appreciate for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Sandy Jeanquart Miles, PhD, SPHR, GPHR, Academic Fellow CIPD
Hutchens Distinguished Professor
Board Member, Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI)
Dept. of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration
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The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the City of Paducah, Kentucky, I am writing in support of the Department of Transportation BUILD grant application for the program titled "Riverfront to Riverport: Investing in Paducah's Maritime Hub". The City of Paducah and the surrounding area understands the value of the inland waterways. They embrace not only the heritage of the river but also the incredible economic opportunities it has generated for the City of Paducah and for the region. As you know, the Paducah area, with support from federal, state and private investments has put a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and development of river-related activities from the riverfront to the Riverport.

The City now has an opportunity to leverage these investments to develop a "Maritime Hub" by connecting downtown to the riverfront, providing gathering areas along the river for citizens and visitors, enhancing the connection to the Steamboat Dock, and creating robust infrastructure to support expanding Riverport business and container on barge growth.

As President of West Kentucky Community and Technical College, I support this project because the river industry is vital to the economic and workforce growth and success of our region. In addition, WKCTC is committed to supporting and meeting the education and workforce training needs of region.

This program of projects will further connect our community, visitors and the river industry. These improvements will build on the strength of the Riverport's services, draw locals to the riverfront, attract tourism and provide more economic development opportunities along the river.

I urge you to give this the attention and consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely



Dr. Anton Reece

