

U.S. SENATOR  
KATIE BOYD BRITT  
ALABAMA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

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April 27, 2023

Rear Adm. Ann C. Phillips, USN Ret.  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Maritime Administration  
Office of Port Infrastructure Development  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 Small Project for Small Ports, FY 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program.

Secretary Phillips:

I write in strong support of the application by the City of Chickasaw for funding under the Port Infrastructure Development Program.

The Port of Chickasaw is integral to the operations of the Alabama State Port Authority and the Port of Mobile. The recent growth of the Port of Mobile benefits the Port of Chickasaw, the state of Alabama, and the region. However, the increased economic activity at the Port of Chickasaw's has made clear the need to modernize its existing infrastructure, which dates to the 1960s.

If awarded, this funding would modernize the north dock, dated infrastructure critical to accommodating the increased economic activity at the Port of Chickasaw as well as the Port of Mobile. Constructed in 1943 from timber pilings, the north dock cannot support the weight of cargo loads today. Furthermore, construction of a new retaining wall on the north dock would allow loading and offloading on the dock once again. Additionally, grant funding would support the construction of modern bulkheads on the existing land bank, making it available for the loading of freight. The Port of Chickasaw's dated infrastructure must be modernized to ensure it keeps pace with the growth of the Port of Mobile. As a shallow draft port that runs barge, tug, and freight operations, the Port of Chickasaw also operates a short line rail with the Port of Mobile. The grant funding would bolster the local community and propel regional growth due to the Port of Chickasaw's cooperative relationship with the ever-growing, economically critical Port of Mobile.

I urge you to give strong consideration to the application submitted by the City of Chickasaw, Alabama, for a FY2023 Small Project for Small Ports, FY 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with further questions.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator