



**PEMBROKE PINES
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February 20, 2020

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

RE: U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program 2020 Grant Application Support Letter for Port Everglades' Expansion Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Pembroke Pines is pleased to submit this letter of support for Broward County's Port Everglades Expansion Project for the U.S. Department of Transportation Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program 2020 Grant Application. The Expansion Project will ensure that Port Everglades is able to provide modern state-of-the-industry petroleum infrastructure and increased capacity necessary to fulfill its role as a nationally significant global gateway and as the primary seaport for the delivery of transportation fuels to South Florida. The wider berthing configuration of Slip 1 will be able to accommodate larger petroleum tankers and ocean-going barges, resulting in an increase in both safety and efficiency by providing additional petroleum off-loading capacity. Broward municipalities will directly benefit from this added capacity, in addition to the national, state, and regional economic benefits that will be realized.

South Florida is the 8th largest metropolitan area in the U.S. with more than six million residents. In addition, Florida is the 3rd largest state with over 21 million residents, and we welcomed 126 million seasonal visitors in 2018. It is critical that Florida's seaports are positioned and equipped to handle a growing volume of trade to meet consumer needs and to ensure our nation's surface transportation system is used most efficiently.

Broward County's Port Everglades Master/Vision Plan identifies \$1.6 billion in capital investments that are needed over the next twenty years to support this major economic generator for South Florida that supports more than 13,000 direct jobs and generates \$33.9 billion in business activity annually. To meet Port Everglades' current and future needs, an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars must be expended on construction and acquisition activities over the next several years. The Expansion Project represents critical components of this capital investment program necessary to serve the energy needs of South Florida's residents, visitors, and business community as the population continues to grow.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Broward County's Port Everglades, and the successful completion of this project.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Ortis, Mayor
City of Pembroke Pines

Cc: Glenn A. Wiltshire, Acting Port Everglades Chief Executive and Port Director