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RICK LARSEN  
2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I request your full and fair consideration of the Port of Bellingham's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for \$17.9 million to enhance on-dock rail infrastructure at the Bellingham Shipping Terminal (BST).

The Port of Bellingham is seeking a RAISE grant to construct a rail spur off the BNSF Railway's north-south main line and five loading tracks into the BST. Once complete, this project will enable the port to provide direct Class I rail access to the terminal and enable deep draft vessels to transfer cargo directly to rail.

RAISE funding would support the port's efforts to bring the BST to its full potential for advancing regional economic health and resiliency. The port estimates that a working rail connection could double the terminal's throughput. In turn, the projected increase in vessel calls would create the types of jobs and union opportunities, from pilots to tugboat crews, engineers, technicians and service employees, that support a robust working waterfront. Over time, the rail connection would reduce heavy traffic, which would enhance road safety, reduce emissions and minimize road repairs.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration of the Port of Bellingham's RAISE application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen  
U.S. Representative  
Washington State, Second District