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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 25, 2026

The Honorable Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I write in support of RRR Grundy, LLC's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program for their Grundy County 2026 Multimodal Terminal Expansion Project.

RRR Grundy, LLC (RRRG), is a terminal operation on the Illinois River between Morris and Channahon Illinois. This location was formerly the Lyondell/Equistar river terminal and was acquired by RRRG in 2011. Since the purchase, it has developed a strong volume of freight movement for industries both locally and regionally serving the agriculture community with fertilizer shipments to local farmers as well as cotton-seed movements from the lower Mississippi region for cattle operations in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. This terminal also moves large tonnages of sand and gravel between Joliet/Morris with the Peoria construction markets; stone moves southward while sand is brought back on return trips.

Grundy County lies within a productive rural region where efficient freight infrastructure is essential to support agriculture, industry, and long-term economic stability. The proposed river-based freight terminal would strengthen the region's capacity to move a wide range of agricultural and industrial commodities, improving access to national and global markets.

The project leverages the Illinois River and the inland waterway system to expand the use of barge transportation for bulk freight. Moving commodities by water allows larger volumes to be shipped more efficiently, with lower emissions, reduced impact on local roads, and lower transportation costs. These benefits help improve supply chain reliability for rural communities that depend on cost-effective, dependable freight options to remain competitive.

In particular, the project will play an important role in supporting the delivery of fertilizer and other critical agricultural inputs. Reliable and timely access to fertilizer is essential for farm operations, crop yields, and food security across the region. By improving the ability to receive, store, and distribute these materials by river, the project will help reduce transportation costs and improve reliability for farmers and rural producers.

These critical project investments will further enhance the region's freight capacity and operational resilience. By prioritizing modern marine infrastructure, the project will improve performance during periods of high demand and supply chain disruption. Within all relevant rules and regulations, it is my hope that you will give this application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Katherine Coyle, at (309) 671-7027.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

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