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Rick Crawford  
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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY23 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROGRAM APPLICATION -TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway (NS), I am writing to express strong support for the Town of Port Deposit's application for a FY23 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Grant Program to advance design of infrastructure resilience strategies along the western bank of the lower Susquehanna River in northeastern Maryland. The Town is seeking solutions to reduce the risks of damage from flooding and lowers potential flood damages.

NS owns and operates the Port Road Branch which runs through the town at-grade. The Port Road Branch is critical to our operations as it connects NS trains to the Amtrak Northeast Corridor and allows NS to provide efficient and competitive freight rail service to the Baltimore region as well as Wilmington, DE. It is on the Port Road where NS transports US manufactured farm and heavy construction equipment, such as Deere tractors, Caterpillar cranes, as well as finished automobiles from the Midwest to the Port of Baltimore for exports.

Over the years, Norfolk Southern has experienced several washouts and service outages along the Port Road. These incidents force days-long rerouting of cargo adding expense to our shippers, generate additional emissions, and degrade the entire network of passenger and freight rail across multiple railroad operators.

Norfolk Southern looks forward to working with the Town of Port Deposit to analyze and develop resilience strategies that benefit not only the historic community but also the regional and national economy. We encourage USDOT's funding of the Town of Port Deposit's RAISE grant application.

Respectively,

*Rick L. Crawford*

