



March 14, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC, 20590

**RE: Support for the joint City of Oakland and Port of Oakland's TIGER 2012
Grant Application**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, I am pleased to offer my support for the Port of Oakland and City of Oakland TIGER 2012 grant application to convert the former Oakland Army Base (OAB) into a thriving Trade and Logistics Center by developing the Port's Phase I Intermodal Rail Project.

The construction industry has been devastated by massive unemployment the past several years. The hundreds of jobs created by this project will help continue the recovery that is just beginning. We are eager to see the ongoing development plans for the former Oakland Army Base realized in the near future. It has been more than ten years since the OAB was decommissioned and is way past due for economic redevelopment.

Moving this project forward will benefit more than the local community. The proposed \$20 million TIGER 2012 grant application will help to facilitate a nearly four-fold expansion in rail cargo transfer capacity by building additional rail access in the OAB area. This project will make access to the Port more efficient for existing shippers and solidify the Port's position as a premier export gateway.

This project will allow enhanced intermodal and bulk transfer capacity for the Port of Oakland, substantial emissions reduction due to expanded use of rail, and a significant increase in the economic competitiveness of the Port and the region. That will fuel further economic growth and development which will create indirect employment opportunities well beyond those of the project itself.

Again, I am pleased to convey my support for this application and ask that you give it your full consideration under the TIGER 2012 grant competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Alvarado'.

Bob Alvarado
Executive Officer

BA:jgp
opeiu #3, afl-cio

