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September 6, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

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

**Re: IBEW Support for Oakland's Waterfront Mobility Hub Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, CLC (IBEW) to support the application of the Waterfront Mobility Hub project in Oakland, California, for funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) competitive grant program.

The Oakland Waterfront Mobility Hub is a comprehensive package of transportation infrastructure improvement projects that will provide safer, more sustainable, and more equitable access to the West Oakland waterfront while protecting and enhancing goods movement in and out of the nearby Port of Oakland. The project will generate national and regional economic, mobility, and safety benefits while supporting equity and a resilient environment. Furthermore, the Waterfront Mobility Hub will alleviate long-standing bottlenecks for freight and passenger rail, support multi-modal transit connections, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, pave the way for affordable housing, and improve waterfront access for the local community.

The Oakland Waterfront will be one of the largest job creation opportunities in the city of Oakland in a very long time. If approved, the project will also facilitate the development of the proposed Waterfront Ballpark District at Howard Terminal, creating 25,000 union construction jobs with apprenticeship, local hire, and disadvantaged worker provisions. The family-sustaining jobs created by this project will create an economic ripple effect as their income contributes directly or indirectly to state and local payroll taxes, increased spending in local businesses, increased spending with local construction vendors, job training, increased local charitable contributions, increased tourism, and more.

The IBEW represents approximately 400,000 members working in construction throughout the United States and Canada who are highly skilled and trained in all facets of electrical construction work. The IBEW and its construction employer partners are the largest private sector trainer of electrical workers in the United States, jointly operating nearly 300 construction registered apprenticeship training centers and investing \$200 million annually in training, at no cost to participants or taxpayers.





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The IBEW shares the Biden Administration's priorities around equitable workforce development, a key consideration for any MEGA grant application. Of particular relevance to the Waterfront Mobility Hub project is Dublin, California IBEW Local 595's longtime participation in the Cypress Mandela Training Center, a free, 16-week pre-apprenticeship program offering classroom and hands-on training to prepare participants for careers in the construction trades and place them in registered apprenticeship programs. Local Union 595 also works with the Rising Sun Opportunity Center, which recruits un- and underemployed youth, women, and individuals in the Bay Area and San Joaquin County and provides them with the skills to succeed in registered apprenticeships and the opportunity to earn family-sustaining wages in middle-class careers.

Notably, much of the work on the Waterfront Mobility Hub project will be covered by the Port of Oakland Maritime and Aviation Project Labor Agreement, and other project labor agreements (PLA's) on the project are currently being negotiated. As a result, the project is likely to follow other successful examples of similar development projects also performed under PLAs with strong community workforce provisions, like the Nationals Stadium project in Washington, D.C., which revitalized an overlooked section of the Anacostia River waterfront, sparking new businesses and housing as well as another stadium nearby – all while exceeding that PLA's ambitious community workforce targets.

Thankfully, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes tens of billions of dollars that can be utilized to create good, union jobs to modernize our nation's transportation infrastructure. I hope the Department of Transportation will embrace this opportunity to invest in Oakland's Waterfront Mobility Hub, a project that will prepare our nation for future growth.

I hope you will fund this critically important project.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President

LRS:efw

Copy to Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Jeff Merkley  
Representative Suzanne Bonamici  
Representative Cliff Bentz  
Representative Earl Blumenauer  
Representative Peter DeFazio  
Representative Kurt Schrader

