

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation, we write to express our strong support for the 2019 U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Infrastructure Development Program grant application submitted by PortMiami for the "PortMiami Fumigation and Cold Processing Center" (Center) project.

The components of the Center will improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the movement of perishables as well as the processing capacity of temperature-controlled cargo at PortMiami. It will also improve the port's economic competitiveness by providing additional capacity for cargo phytosanitary treatment, cold chain processing, and value-added services. The advance technology and innovative multipurpose layout will enhance Miami's position as a key point of treatment and processing of perishables and will support the safe flow of agricultural/food products, free of pests and diseases, both domestically and internationally.

PortMiami supports 334,000 jobs in Florida and contributes \$43 billion to the local economy. It remains an indispensable partner in our efforts to support the creation of high-paying jobs for our constituents, growth for businesses, and strengthened U.S. relations throughout the world. The market for fresh produce is growing in South Florida, and the proposed Center will create a needed synergy that is vital to continued economic growth for Florida and the nation.

We urge that you give full and fair consideration to PortMiami's grant application, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, for this important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,



Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress