

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2011

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

**Re: Support from the Northern California MegaRegion for the City of Oakland's
TIGER III Grant Application**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in support of the City of Oakland's TIGER III grant application to convert the former Oakland Army Base into a thriving Trade and Logistics Center.

It has been more than 10 years since the Oakland Army Base was decommissioned and is way past due for economic redevelopment. The TIGER III grant application has the potential to trigger the alignment of more than \$400,000,000 in local, state, federal and private funds to develop over 300 acres of prime property adjacent to the Port of Oakland. The Port of Oakland, the 5th busiest container port in the U.S., is Northern California's gateway to the world, having welcomed 1,973 vessels in 2010 that carried more than \$39 billion in cargo. In addition, 99% of the containerized goods moving through Northern California pass through the Port of Oakland.

TIGER III funds will go to:

- Creating a new intermodal rail terminal on 40 acres of the Port property.
- Restoring Oakland's only deep water break bulk terminal.
- Constructing new trade and logistics facilities for warehousing directly within the Port.
- Relocating export-oriented recycling operations and trucking operation from impacted neighborhoods.
- Improving the backbone infrastructure of the former Oakland Army Base.

This project will bring 3,000 jobs, enhanced intermodal connectivity, substantial emission reduction due to expanded use of rail, increased economic competitiveness of the Port of Oakland, and expanded access to export markets for American businesses. In addition, this project will create thousands of construction and permanent job opportunities for a community and region experiencing an unemployment rate of 17%.

As members of the California delegation, we urge you to give this application your every consideration.

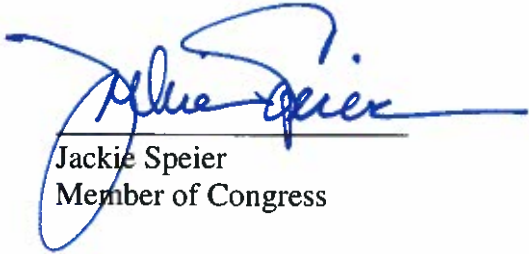
Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress