



**Coalition
Of
New
England
Companies for
Trade**

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CONNECT
508-481-0424

CONNECT Counsel

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FBB Federal Relations

July 23, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT), I would like to express my strong support for the Massachusetts Port Authority's (Massport) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) application for the Conley Terminal Container Storage and Freight Corridor project in the Port of Boston. This project will support a key component that will benefit all of CONNECT's members and will provide an integral and important cog in the wheel of our region's business supply chain and one of New England's most important economic assets, Conley Container Terminal.

The working port of Boston is home to more than 9,000 jobs and generates \$8.2 billion of annual economic impact. A significant part of that economic value comes from Conley Terminal and the region's 2,500 businesses, including approximately 700 rural businesses, who use the facility to import and export their goods. However, after five consecutive years of record-breaking growth, including an 8% increase in FY2019, Conley Terminal is facing mounting container storage capacity constraints. To solve this problem, Massport is proposing to optimize and rehab a vacant terminal area to increase the terminal's container storage capacity by nearly 30% and to add innovative technologies to improve safety and customer experience. This project will allow Conley Terminal to continue supporting New England's businesses in an efficient and competitive way.

Massport's application also includes the construction of the Cypher-E Freight Corridor to improve inland container movements and regional distribution, improve roadway safety, and introduce innovative signal technology. This corridor will facilitate growth in the port by improving last-mile connections and serve as a truck route for freight dependent uses within the Port of Boston. This freight corridor will increase safety by separating trucks from mixed-use traffic on the adjacent D Street, which is increasingly residential and has become a key corridor for pedestrian, bicycle and passenger vehicle traffic.

Massport's BUILD application would enable Conley Terminal to continue to support rural and urban entities throughout New England businesses. Additional container storage capacity and new gate technology would allow Conley to continue to grow and efficiently serve our business. Outside of the terminal, the improved Cypher-E truck route is important to our business because it would help get goods in the hands of consumers quickly and efficiently and boost economic growth throughout the region. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Luiz da Costa
Associate Director, Global Import/Export and Trade Compliance, Takeda Pharmaceuticals Ltd
President, CONECT