

CLEVELAND HARBOR – INTERSTATE 90 MARITIME AND FREIGHT FORTIFICATION

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 2026 Grant Program

US Department of Transportation (USDOT)

Project Partners and Stakeholders

Bold denotes an attached letter of support.

Federal Congressional Support:

US House of Representatives – 11th District, Ohio – Shontel M. Brown

State Congressional Support:

Ohio State Senate – 23rd District – Nickie J. Antonio

Ohio House of Representatives – 20th District – Terrence Upchurch

Local Elected Officials:

Cuyahoga County Executive – Chris Ronayne

City of Cleveland Mayor – Justin Bibb

Partners: **Black Environmental Leaders Association**

City of Cleveland (included above)

Cleveland Metroparks

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management

Ohio Department of Transportation

Port of Cleveland (applicant)

Key Maritime and Manufacturing Stakeholders:

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.

Industrial Development Advantage

The Great Lakes Towing Company

Project Stakeholders engaged throughout the process:

Ariel International

Bike Cleveland

Bluestone Heights

Burke Lakefront Airport

Campus District Community Development Corporation

City of Cleveland Land Bank

Cleveland City Council Wards 8, 9, and 10

Cleveland Cultural Gardens

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Cleveland Public Power

Cleveland State University

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

Cuyahoga County Council

Cuyahoga County Land Bank

Cuyahoga River Area of Concern

Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Cuyahoga County Public Works

Cuyahoga County Sustainability

Destination Cleveland

Doan Brook Watershed Partners

Dominion Energy

Downtown Cleveland Alliance

East Clark Elementary Bird Nerds

Famicos

First Energy

Flats Forward

Forest City Yacht Club

Friends of Kirtland Park

Greater Cleveland Partnership

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Greater Collinwood Development Corporation

Green Ribbon Coalition

Holden Parks Trust

Ingenuity Cleveland

InterCity Yacht Club

Kirtland Bird Club

Kirtlandia Society

Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail

Lakeside Yacht Club

LAND studio

MidTown Cleveland, Inc. Community Development Corporation

MyCom Youth Council

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

Ohio Means Jobs Cuyahoga County

ODNR Div. of Wildlife

Phastar

Shoreline Apartments

Slovenian National Home

St. Clair Superior Community Development Corporation

St. Martin de Porres High School

The Foundry

Trust for Public Land

UMADOP

University Circle Incorporated Community Development Corporation

Upcycle Parts Shop

USACE

Village of Bratenahl

West Creek Conservancy

West. Cuyahoga Audubon Society

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

*Plus, numerous individual
neighborhood residents,
birding enthusiasts, and
active citizens*



SHONTEL M. BROWN
11TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032

25200 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
BEACHWOOD, OH 44122
(216) 522-4900

SHONTELBROWN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

VICE RANKING MEMBER,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES, RISK MANAGEMENT,
AND CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

February 23, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I am writing to express my support for the Port of Cleveland's application for the FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy.

I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward toward strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency along the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your attention to the merits of the Cleveland Harbor project. This endeavor will undoubtedly improve shoreline infrastructure and transportation. I respectfully request that the Port of Cleveland's proposal be given careful review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Minority Leader

Nickie J. Antonio
State Senator 23rd District

Committees

Transportation - *Ranking*
Rules & Reference - *Ranking*
Joint Legislative Ethics
Legislative Service Commission

February 28th, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nickie J. Antonio".

NICKIE J. ANTONIO
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
STATE SENATOR 23rd DISTRICT



State Representative Terrence Upchurch
Ohio's 20th House District

01/24/2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

Please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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I urge your full and fair consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence Upchurch".

Terrence Upchurch
State Representative



February 23, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Cuyahoga County, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through the Cleveland area daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating \$7 billion in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

The Port of Cleveland and I-90 serve as powerful economic engines for the region and their uninterrupted operation is essential to the success and global competitiveness of Cuyahoga County. By strengthening these assets and protecting a vital Lake Erie shoreline, this project ensures the economic vitality and resilience of our community for years to come.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ronayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Chris Ronayne
Cuyahoga County Executive



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Office of the Mayor
Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216/664-3990 • Fax 216/420-8766
www.cleveland-oh.gov

February 18, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the City of Cleveland, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The City believes this project is worthy of consideration for BUILD in addition to our priority capital grant project to construct the Cleveland Midway- Lorain Avenue Corridor Improvements.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating \$7 billion in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad. The Port of Cleveland and I-90 serve as powerful economic engines for the region, and their uninterrupted operation is essential to the success and global competitiveness of the city of Cleveland. By strengthening these assets and protecting vital Lake Erie shoreline, this project ensures the economic vitality and resilience of our community for years to come.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the City of Cleveland's lakefront.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin M. Bibb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Justin M. Bibb
Mayor | City of Cleveland



February 20, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Black Environmental Leaders Association, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 127,603 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

SeMia Bray
Executive Director



Board of Park Commissioners

Yvette M. Ittu
Dan T. Moore
Bruce G. Rinker

Chief Executive Officer

Brian M. Zimmerman



5-time winner

February 10, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Cleveland Metroparks, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 127,603 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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Cleveland Metroparks is committed to securing funding to construct and maintain the Habitat Loop portion of the CHEERS vision upon completion of BUILD-funded work. This project would also continue to enhance I-90 and US Bike Route 30, which traverses the site as the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway.

Launched in 2020, CHEERS is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Zimmerman".

Brian M. Zimmerman
Chief Executive Officer



Department of Transportation

transportation.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Jim Tressel, *Lt. Governor*
Pamela Boratyn, *Director*

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Port of Cleveland's Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification
BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Ohio Department of Transportation is pleased to support the Port of Cleveland's Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification application for the FY26 BUILD Program.

This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries more than 129,000 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

Specifically for the Ohio Department of Transportation, this project will significantly reduce the potential for wave action splashing onto I-90 during storm events. This wave action is even more challenging during winter months due to ice build-up on the Interstate pavement.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on Cleveland's lakeshore.

The Port of Cleveland will be the direct recipient of a BUILD grant award. I respectfully request consideration of this beneficial project for the citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pamela Boratyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pamela" being more prominent than the last name "Boratyn".

Pamela Boratyn, Director
Ohio Department of Transportation



CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC.

200 Public Square, Suite 3300, Cleveland, OH 44114
P 216.694.5700 clevelandcliffs.com

February 20, 2026

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

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy:

Cleveland-Cliffs (Cliffs) is the largest producer of flat-rolled steel in North America, employing more than 25,000 individuals. Cliffs is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio with mining, steel and downstream manufacturing operations located across the U.S. and Canada. The Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works integrated steel mill is strategically located on the Cuyahoga River, part of the Cleveland Harbor Federal Navigation Channel. Cleveland Works, which employs more than 2,000 workers, is recognized as one of the most productive integrated steelmaking facilities in the world.

Cleveland-Cliffs urges favorable consideration by the U.S. DOT of BUILD funding for the Port of Cleveland's Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification (CH-I90) application. This project will address critical maritime functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation vital to Northeast Ohio's economy, including the transport of raw materials delivered via the Cuyahoga River to Cleveland Works. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting steel products transported by rail, and truck to markets across the U.S.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. Cleveland-Cliffs has been involved as a stakeholder since the project outset and applauds this locally led effort to maintain economic competitiveness and industrial output while delivering benefits to the local community.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Bloom".

Patrick M. Bloom
Executive Vice President, Government Relations
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.



February 24, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification (CH-I90) BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

The **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification (CH-I90)** project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure near property owned by our company, Lake Shore Acquisition Company, LLC (“LSAC”). LSAC supports the CH-I90 and the Port of Cleveland’s application for project funding from BUILD.

The Project location is directly across Interstate 90 from LSAC’s property, which was the site for the former Lake Shore Power Station. LSAC is in the process of preparing the property for redevelopment. LSAC is participating in cooperative discussion with the Port of Cleveland regarding the transfer of a portion of the submerged land lease that would be utilized in the Project. A formal agreement is anticipated to be executed prior to full design and permitting of the Project.

It's LSAC’s understanding that the proposed grant builds on over \$6 million in funding invested to date by local partners and funders, including the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Maritime Assistance Program. We understand shovel-ready plans are in place for CH-I90 and this project also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region’s economy.

It's LSAC’s understanding that an award from BUILD will hopefully move CH-I90 from shovel-ready to active construction. CH-I90 complements other public and private investments, including LSAC’s current efforts. Consequently, we encourage USDOT to fund this request and look forward to transforming Lake Erie and the local neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Lake Shore Acquisition Company, LLC

 for
Steven B. Radel
President



THE GREAT LAKES TOWING COMPANY
GREAT LAKES SHIPYARD

4500 Division Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44102
(216) 621-4854 • www.thegreatlakesgroup.com

February 23, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor / I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of The Great Lakes Towing Company, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor / Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

The Great Lakes Towing Company, headquartered in Cleveland, provides marine towing and commercial shipyard services for Great Lakes based vessel operators. The successful implementation of the Cleveland Harbor / Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification will maintain the health of the Port of Cleveland, and the accompanying CHEERS project provides an economical alternative for the beneficial reuse of dredgings from the Cuyahoga River. Maintaining proper navigation depth for the Cuyahoga River is critical to the efficient operation of businesses the Company supports in the steel, aggregate, liquid bulk and salt trades.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Zadkovich
Vice President, Business Development



February 13, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, I am writing to support the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification.

This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS) which is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders.

County Planning's commitment to advancing Cuyahoga County's social, economic, and environmental health through community planning is a key component of our mission and strategic plan. We have been active partners since the inception of this CHEERS project because it will protect infrastructure, enhance ecological function, and energized social vitality.

Thank you for your attention to the merits of the project to enhance transportation, quality of life, and environment. I respectfully request that the Port of Cleveland's proposal be given careful review and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions mcierebiej@cuyahogacounty.gov or 216-443-3720

Sincerely,

Mary Cierebiej, AICP
Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission



February 20, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Destination Cleveland, Cuyahoga County's destination marketing and management organization, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implantation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification as part of the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS) project.

Destination Cleveland has one of the best jobs in the city: We help attract visitors to Cleveland, enhance their experience while here, and work to shape perceptions of Cleveland in the minds of those who live outside the region. We have conducted extensive local and national research to determine how best to continue capitalizing on significant infrastructure investments to ensure their impacts are felt well into the future. The research identified significant opportunities to better connect our investments so that visitors can seamlessly experience all of Cleveland's world-class attractions, neighborhoods, and destinations. Investment in infrastructure is critical in these efforts; and the Interstate 90 Maritime Freight Fortification project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure uninterrupted transportation that's vital to Northeast Ohio's economy.

Each day, I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the CHEERS project. CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

Therefore, Destination Cleveland offers its full support for the Port of Cleveland's BUILD Program application and its need for community improvement dollars. We appreciate your consideration of this request for funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Gilbert".

David Gilbert
President and CEO
Destination Cleveland



February 11, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

The CHEERS project is complemented by improvements to nearby Gordon Park, which will improve access to quality greenspace in the Doan Brook Watershed, and will help us to work towards our vision of a watershed where clean water flows freely, neighborhoods feel connected to nature, and residents are empowered to care for their environment and build a healthier, more just future.





DOAN BROOK
WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Kao".

Emily Kao
Executive Director
Doan Brook Watershed Partnership





Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1302
Phone: 216-566-5100
riderta.com

February 20, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, to include the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

This project will provide better access to a newly designed park for public transit riders. The mission of GCRTA is to connect with the community this project advances that goal by providing better access to recreational areas like this park. This project addresses the reoccurring issue of equitable access to Lake Erie.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading aspects of the work, with end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure & coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager & Chief Executive Officer

Intercity Yacht Club
7301 N. Marginal Rd
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216-702-6336

February 13, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Intercity Yacht Club lease accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland’s application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio’s economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio’s economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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Key Benefits of CHEERS to IYC’s Mission

- **Stronger Community Hub:** Reinforces IYC’s role as a gathering space that promotes fellowship and connection.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Provides resilience upgrades so IYC can serve members during outages and severe weather.
- **Support for Vulnerable Members:** Enables charging stations, warming/cooling space, and emergency assistance.
- **Youth & Education Growth:** Expands sailing programs, safety training, and community workshops.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Improves access to grants and reduces long-term energy costs.
- **Greater Inclusivity:** Supports accessibility upgrades and flexible community use space.

Overall Impact: CHEERS strengthens IYC's mission of community service, education, stewardship, and long-term sustainability while positioning the Club for future growth in Cleveland.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Ryan Weekes

Commodore

Intercity Yacht Club



February 16, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification.

This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad. This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing the opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

In addition to the benefits that will accrue to shoreline infrastructure, harbor function, and transportation in our region, this project will support migratory birds. The Lake Erie shoreline

is an important stopover point for migratory birds, including many species that are experiencing sharp population declines. A byproduct of building up the shoreline in the area described is that it will increase needed habitat for these migrating songbirds and water birds.

A [US Fish and Wildlife Department report from 2024](#) points out “96 million U.S. residents (37% of the population aged 16+) are birdwatchers, with 91 million engaging in "backyard" birding and 43 million taking trips. This hobby has become a major economic driver, generating over \$107 billion in annual spending on equipment, travel, and related items, supporting 1.4 million jobs.” A [2023 study commissioned by the Ohio Division of Wildlife](#) concluded birdwatchers spend \$1.6 billion annually in their pursuit.

The CHEERS Project, launched in 2020, is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland’s lakeshore.

We have collaborated with all but one of the CHEERS partners (Ohio DOT) over many years and our experience has been nothing less than exceptional, and we look forward to continued collaboration and the continued success of the CHEERS project.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Sean McCleery
President, Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio



Patricia Kellner
Past President, Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio



February 16, 2026
Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of MidTown Cleveland Inc., please accept this letter in strong support of the Port of Cleveland’s application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio’s economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating \$7 billion in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio’s economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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As a community development organization serving Cleveland’s MidTown and AsiaTown neighborhoods, MidTown Cleveland Inc. supports investments that strengthen the region’s economic infrastructure while advancing long-term environmental resilience and public realm improvements. The CHEERS framework aligns with our mission to build vibrant, connected neighborhoods by improving access to quality open space, supporting sustainable infrastructure, and reinforcing the systems that underpin Northeast Ohio’s industrial economy. By stabilizing the shoreline and enabling future park and habitat investments, this project will contribute to a more resilient lakefront that benefits residents, employers, and regional mobility networks.

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland’s lakeshore.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashley Shaw".

Ashley Shaw
Executive Director

5000 Euclid Avenue Suite 100 | Cleveland, Ohio 44103



February 12, 2026

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

RE: Port of Cleveland's BUILD Grant Application for Cleveland Harbor I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification Implementation Project, Requesting \$13,060,000

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Port of Cleveland's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant request for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification implementation project**. NOACA is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that represents the five counties of Greater Cleveland: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina. NOACA addresses the transportation, air quality, and water quality needs of Northeast Ohio, and works with its partners to develop and implement plans to ensure that travel throughout the region is safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound. In particular, NOACA develops the Long Range Plan (LRP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.

This project is NOACA's top priority for 2026 BUILD implementation funding in Northeast Ohio. The project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

This crucial investment fits within an overall regional strategy and would eventually become part of the parklands and habitat associated with the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Strategy (CHEERS). CHEERS is a local, regional, and state priority supported by over 50 local and regional stakeholders, and delivers economic, environmental, and community benefits. It also fulfills an urgent regional need by providing an opportunity for the beneficial use of dredge material from the Cuyahoga River, which is critical to the region's economy.

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India L. Birdsong Terry, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
Kim Thomas, Mayor, City of Richmond Heights

Ex Officio Members
Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E., Executive Director, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
David Emerman, District Chief, Northeast District Office, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Grace Gallucci, Executive Director & CEO



The Honorable Sean Duffy
February 13, 2026
Page 2

Launched in 2020, this project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at ggallucci@mpo.noaca.org.

Sincerely,

Grace Gallucci
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

GG:bb:ml/10377s



...a lakefront community.

February 17, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: USDOT – Cleveland Harbor – I-90 Maritime and Freight Fortification BUILD Grant Request

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of St. Clair Superior Development Corporation, please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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The CHEERS project benefits St. Clair Superior community by helping reconnect residents to Lake Erie through new public access, parks, trails, and recreational spaces, while also restoring natural shoreline habitat and improving environmental conditions along the East Side waterfront. This large investment strengthens neighborhood pride and quality of life, supports community driven placemaking and public space activation, and increases the area's attractiveness for local business growth and future development. CHEERS also expands the opportunity for St. Clair Superior Development Corporation (SCSDC) to partner with regional agencies, funders, and planning organizations, positioning the organization to leverage new funding and implementation opportunities, while ensuring that St. Clair Superior residents' voices, priorities, and equity goals are embedded in long term lakefront planning and redevelopment.

Our mission is to build a community where people live, businesses thrive,
and visitors explore – by connecting people, strengthening the neighborhood,
and seeking to always be accountable to the community.

EMAIL: info@stclairsuperior.org PHONE: 216.881.0644

  [stclairsuperior.org](https://www.stclairsuperior.org)



...a lakefront community.

Launched in 2020, the CHEERS project is a partnership between the Port of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Black Environmental Leaders. Each partner is actively involved in leading different aspects of the work, with overlapping goals to move the project forward with an end goal of strengthening critical infrastructure and significantly enhancing coastal resiliency on the city of Cleveland's lakeshore and SCSDC is pleased to be a member of the CHEERS Stakeholder group.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terri Hamilton Brown".

Terri Hamilton Brown
Executive Director

Our mission is to build a community where people live, businesses thrive,
and visitors explore - by connecting people, strengthening the neighborhood,
and seeking to always be accountable to the community.

EMAIL: info@stclairsuperior.org PHONE: 216.881.0644

  | [stclairsuperior.org](https://www.stclairsuperior.org)



February 17, 2026

Secretary Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of University Circle Inc. (UCI), please accept this letter in support of the Port of Cleveland's application to the BUILD Program for implementation of the **Cleveland Harbor – Interstate 90 Maritime and Freight Fortification**. This project will protect existing shoreline infrastructure and address critical harbor functions to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transportation facilities vital to Northeast Ohio's economy. I-90 carries 63,356 vehicles through Cleveland daily. The Port of Cleveland moves 13 million tons of cargo annually, generating 7 billion dollars in economic value, including the transport of raw materials to Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works steelmaking facility. These operations are essential to Northeast Ohio's economy and the American steel industry, with the resulting products transported by ship, rail, and truck to markets across the U.S. and abroad.

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UCI is the community service corporation answering the call for connection and community in Cleveland's Circle of Arts, culture, wellness, and learning. As the fourth-largest job center in the state of Ohio and a regional center of culture, education, and healthcare, the strength of University Circle's transportation infrastructure is of paramount importance. One of the busiest transportation corridors bringing visitors, employees, and residents to the neighborhood is Interstate 90, which this initiative seeks to protect and improve through their Lakefront restoration work.

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Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

E. Kate Borders
President

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE INC

Development Service Advocacy

10831 Magnolia Drive Cleveland, OH 44106-1887
P 216.791.3900 F 216.791-3935 www.universitycircle.org



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

February 10, 2026

US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Attn: Environmental Analysis – Cleveland Nearshore
Cleveland Harbor DMMP Preliminary Assessment Addendum
478 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
Submitted via email to ClevelandNearshore@usace.army.mil

RE: Cleveland To Whom It May Concern:

Western Reserve Land Conservancy is providing comments to the NEPA Scoping Information for the Operation and Maintenance Preliminary Assessment Addendum. As a local stakeholder, we remain focused on the need to successfully conclude the DMMP process addressing the mandated 20-year solution to the critical issue of local storage (CDF 12) reaching capacity in 2029. The proposed Preliminary Assessment Addendum does not address this key issue, rather it proposes a solution not used in the Cleveland area for 33 years. At least one of the upland owners of the three sites (Perkins Beach) was not consulted, causing a serious question about true feasibility and local sponsorship of the proposed nearshore alternative.

In this amendment, USACE suggests replacing the current innovative Sediment Placement Management Site (SPMF) at CDF 9 with littoral placement. **This does not alleviate CDF 12 capacity issues.** Additionally, meeting the state of Ohio's requirements for littoral placement would still necessitate material management, and would not achieve meaningful cost savings when compared with the current SPMF at CDF 9. Littoral placement would likely incur additional costs due to increased contractor charges for delivering material to different locations in the same dredge cycle.

A 20-year DMMP for Cleveland Harbor has not been addressed since 2009, leaving the region's \$7.2 B maritime industry at risk. Since 2019, local partners have worked together and spent \$6M to develop CHEERS, the viable, community-driven solution being considered as **Alternative 4a – CHEERS Concept and Sediment Recycling**. Alternative 4a beneficially uses dredge material in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner. No other proposed alternative has community support, necessary 20-year capacity, and a committed local sponsor provided by CHEERS. We again **strongly advocate that the USACE select CHEERS** as the preferred alternative for the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) currently under development for Cleveland Harbor and focus federal efforts towards this locally supported solution.

Sincerely,

Matt Zone
Chief Advocacy Officer
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
mzone@wrlandconservancy.org