



# *Muscogee (CREEK) Nation*

*Executive Office*

July 2, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*Re: In Support of Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I want to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. ODOT is applying for this grant to construct monopile moorings at three different locations (Port of Muskogee, Tulsa Port of Catoosa, Oakley's Port 33) on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS). The proposed plan will invest in mooring infrastructure at the Port of Muskogee, Tulsa Port of Catoosa and on the Grand River which will serve Oakley's Terminal Muskogee and Port 33. The modernized mooring system will create a more safe, efficient, and resilient industry standard to secure vessels and will be designed to accommodate normal navigation conditions as well as extreme flooding conditions that have been encountered over the last several years and are expected to increase in frequency and intensity.

The three ports that will be supported by this grant employ nearly 9,000 workers, total 3,600 acres of industrial park and process nearly 5.5 million tons of cargo annually. This MKARNS Mooring Modernization Project will provide new mooring structures in the waterway that will **replace obsolete anchors**, which will enable safe harbor for mariners, increase reliability of structures in the event of a flood, and support efficient freight movement by waterway.

The Project will replace existing structures which were not designed for the type of major flood events the region has experienced in recent years and enhance harbor safety by eliminating risk of loose barges and damage to infrastructure. The Project will **expand much needed capacity** for vessels within the waterway and prepare ports for forecasted increases in freight demand through the MKARNS.

This is a unique opportunity for the State of Oklahoma (ODOT) to apply for a transportation grant where Oklahoma Ports are the beneficiaries. Without this Project, replacing these mooring structures would not be feasibly possible. ODOT is committed to leveraging all local resources for this Project.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation strongly supports this effort to make needed infrastructure improvements and bring dollars and jobs to eastern Oklahoma.

Your consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Jesse Allen, Secretary for the Department of Interior, at [jallen@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:jallen@mcn-nsn.gov) or 918-549-2515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David W. Hill  
Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation