

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

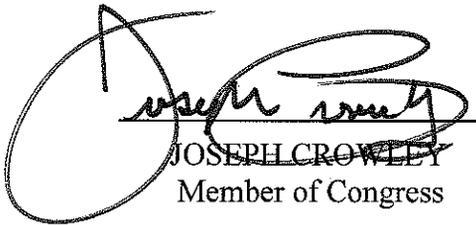
As representatives from New York, we would like to express our strong support for the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market Internal Circulation Improvement TIGER application submitted by the State of New York and City of New York. The State and City of New York's joint application represents the necessary "last mile" financing to modernize the long overdue Hunts Point Terminal; the second largest food hub in the world that serves over 22 million people per year, sourcing almost 15% of its produce from New York during the peak growing season and supporting almost 200 large farms located throughout the State.

For more than 40 years, the Produce Market, located in the South Bronx, has served as New York City's premiere intermodal produce transfer and distribution facility. The over 115 food wholesaling and processing firms at the Produce Market, which employs more than 3,600 workers in good paying jobs, generate more than \$3 billion in sales annually and serve 6,000 small food retailers in the city. More than 50% of the market stocks regionally-grown produce from farmers across New York. In addition to the 22 million people served by the Terminal, 60% of New York City's fresh fruits and vegetables come from the Market, with produce coming from as far west as California and as far south as Florida.

The \$332.5 million Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market redevelopment project is vital to securing a reliable local food source for the country's largest city and ensuring that New York farmers have continued access to a multi-billion dollar in-state market. This long-overdue public-private redevelopment project is supported by the combined \$137.5 million investment of the State and City, with a private investment of \$160 million from the Produce Market Cooperative.

USDOT's TIGER grant is a "last mile" investment to a piece of the larger project to modernize the market's transportation infrastructure and warehouse facilities for greater operating efficiency, food safety, and environmental sustainability. Cumulatively, these improvements will enhance the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market's impact—increasing economic activity at a local, regional, and national level. We strongly urge your support for this essential project.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



CHARLES SCHUMER
U.S. Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
U.S. Senator



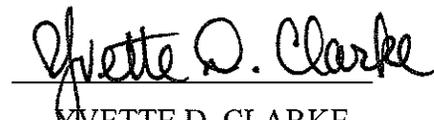
GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress



ANNE MARIE BUERKLE
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON
Member of Congress



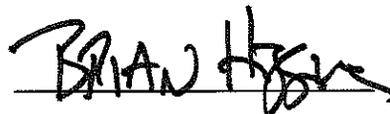
MICHAEL G. GRIMM
Member of Congress



RICHARD L. HANNA
Member of Congress



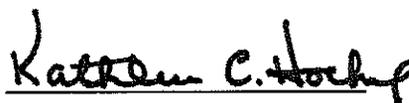
NAN A. S. HAYWORTH
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



MAURICE D. HINCHEY
Member of Congress



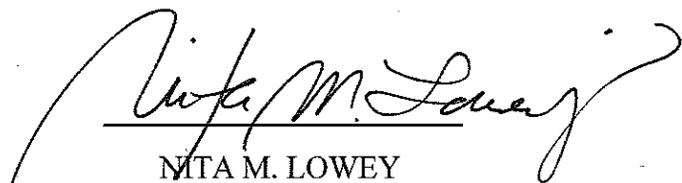
KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL
Member of Congress



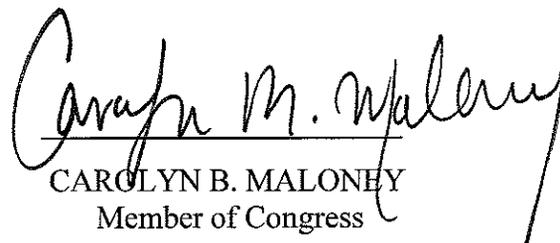
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



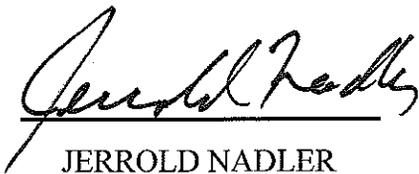
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress



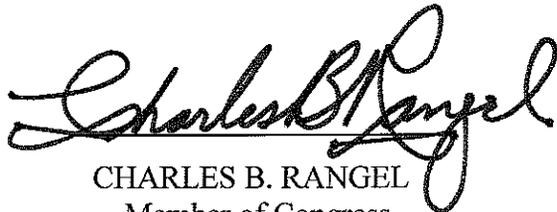
GREGORY M. MEEKS
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CHARLES B. RANGEL
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TOM REED
Member of Congress



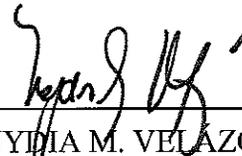
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
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EDOLPHUS TOWNS
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NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
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