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United States Senate

June 28, 2024

The Honorable Veronica Vanterpool
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Vanterpool:

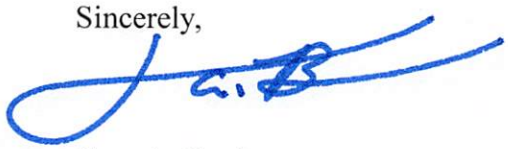
I write in support of the application submitted by the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) for funding through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low/No Emissions Ferry Pilot Program for Fiscal Year 2024. DRBA's application for the acquisition of a hybrid electric ferry will add to their three-vessel fleet, supporting a transition to a fully electric fleet.

The Cape May–Lewes Ferry (CMLF) fleet has been operating continuously between North Cape May, New Jersey and Lewes, Delaware—17 miles or 14 nautical miles—for 60 years. This fleet consists of three vessels that run up to 14 trips daily and transport approximately 775,000 passengers and 275,000 vehicles annually. The CMLF is an affordable, fast, and convenient travel option that directly benefits the regional economy and tourism industry on both sides of the Delaware Bay. Passengers of the CMLF spend more than $250 million annually at local destinations in Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

An FTA award will support DRBA's 40-year Marine Master Plan, which seeks to transition to a fully electric ferry fleet and procure the corresponding shoreside electrical infrastructure. This initiative will boost regional connectivity, reduce emissions, support the regional economy and tourism industry, and enhance safety and efficiency by updating the CMLF fleet to cutting edge technology along EPA Tier 4 standards. My office has been in touch with and collaborated with the Delaware congressional delegation to discuss the impact of this project on both side of the Bay.

I ask that you give all due consideration to this meritorious grant proposal and thank you for your attention to this important project. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my staff at (973) 639-8700.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator