

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2022

Ms. Yvette M. Fields, Director
Maritime Administration
Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, W21-310 (MAR-530)
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Director Fields:

We write to express strong support for your consideration of Sea Port Oil Terminal (SPOT) Services, LLC Deepwater Port License Application currently being considered by the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) and several federal and state agencies. The application currently under review has encountered multiple delays through multiple administrations review process. The expeditious consideration of this project is essential to our national interest.

Over the last decade, the U.S. has rapidly evolved from a position of energy scarcity and vulnerability to one of energy security and tremendous geopolitical strength. Our nation's energy balance is primarily attributable to Texas' export capacity, and the project currently under review will strengthen America's pursuit of energy independence and will push us closer to eliminating our dependence on energy from unstable sources. At this critical moment in history, the United States must utilize every available tool to deploy our oil and gas in support of our allies, as well as our own economic and national security interests. We strongly believe that this starts with the swift approval of the infrastructure needed to export domestically produced crude oil around the world with the least environmental risk.

The SPOT project is a proposed deepwater port facility off the coast of Brazoria County, Texas that will export crude oil directly onto large oil tankers from a fixed offshore platform. SPOT is a safer and cleaner alternative to traditional methods of reverse lightering and will reduce the risk of nearshore oil spills. The project is specifically designed to achieve a 65 percent reduction of total annual greenhouse gas (CO₂e) emission as compared to current practices.

In addition to the national security interests, the project will also bring economic benefit to American families with the support of well-paying jobs and billions of dollars strengthening our schools, teacher salaries, essential services, roads, and infrastructure.

The benefits extend far beyond U.S. borders. From a global perspective, U.S. energy commodities are central to sustainable development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 4 million people die each year in developing nations from

household air pollution associated with the use of solid fuels for cooking and cleaning. U.S. exports accounting for an increasing number of global supplies greatly benefit those living in energy poverty in developing countries by providing a cleaner cooking fuel compared to traditional use of charcoal, biomass, and animal waste.

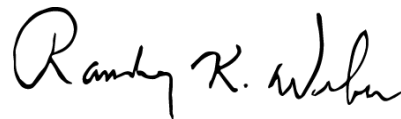
The President has also made clear when he signed a ban on Russian crude oil that we are able “to take this step because of our strong domestic energy infrastructure and we recognize that not all of our Allies and partners are currently in a position to join us. But we are united with our Allies and partners in working together to reduce our collective dependence on Russian energy.” U.S. exports are key for reducing dependency on Russian crude in the global marketplace.

Current events bolster the need for expeditious review of this project in the national interest of our country. MARAD’s time and decisions concerning the management of our country’s energy resources have a significant impact on lives here and abroad. We ask that you give this critical project timely consideration through the regulatory process.

Sincerely,



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress