

July 28, 2016

Howard Zemsky
Empire State Development, President, CEO, and Commissioner
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12245

Re: NYCEDC/Port Authority REDC Grant Application

Dear Mr. Zemsky:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Empire State Development Regional Economic Development Council ("REDC") grant application submitted by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority).

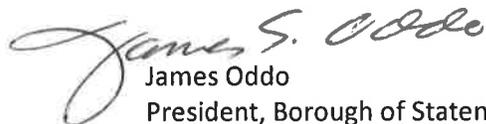
EDC and the Port Authority seek this grant to fund the Howland Hook Access Improvement Project. This project is aimed at supporting over 300 jobs at the terminal by improving truck entry and exit circulation on nearby streets. This will be accomplished by realigning Forest Avenue, a heavily used road for the terminal, as well installing weigh-in-motion scales (WIM) to allow heavier trucks with sealed containers to access the Goethals Bridge for goods destined for New Jersey-based distribution and warehousing.

Both of these components would ensure the future success of the terminal by making the Howland Hook Marine Terminal (HHMT) more competitive with marine terminals in nearby states.

GCT – New York is the main terminal operator for the Howland Hook Marine Terminal, New York State's largest container terminal and international gateway for container freight. Over 160,000 shipping containers are processed each year at the terminal, linking New York State with the rest of the world. Most importantly, these improvements would support the terminal's 300 hard working women and men who have good-paying jobs and benefits. If the terminal were to close the local and State economy would suffer.

Therefore, I urge approval of the EDC/Port Authority application for a REDC grant.

Sincerely,


James Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

