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United States Senate

COMMITTEES. FINANCE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES VETERANS' AFFAIRS JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

February 18, 2020

Ms. Faye Swift DERA Grants and Policy Team Leader U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Transportation & Air Quality 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW. Room 6406A Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Ms. Swift:

It has recently come to my attention that the Port of New Orleans is applying for funding from the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program. They are requesting \$1,210,000 to replace privately-owned diesel trucks with lower emission trucks. The port will provide a match of \$83,692 and the truck owners will be expected to provide \$1,190,000.

The Port of New Orleans plans to use the funds to conduct an open application process in which 42 truck owners that service the port will be selected to receive a partial grant towards the purchase of a low-emissions truck. As a previous awardee, the port has already replaced 52 vehicles. The port expects the project will further reduce emissions in the port and surrounding area.

I appreciate the EPA's consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D. United States Senator

BC/ME

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