



July 6, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Fresh Produce Association of the Americas is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority (PA) application for a Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEPF) grant.

The Nogales Electric Truck Cross-Border Drayage Pilot Program is an essential step in the local efforts to transition to a zero-emissions environment for the movement of cargo. According to the US Department of Commerce, more than \$29.2 billion worth of trade crossed at the port of entry in Nogales in close to 750,000 trucks in 2022 (in two way traffic). The pilot program embraces the commitment by the US and Mexican governments to electrify the border with the focus on the movement of cargo.

But the infrastructure to enable this transition does not exist at Nogales. This pilot program is the essential first step in defining the charging infrastructure needs and to help companies assess the cost-benefit analysis to make sure that they can operate these leading-edge trucks effectively, efficiently, and profitably. Locally, removing the emissions of over 750,000 trucks from our environment is a critical step in protecting the environment and improving our quality of life.

The pilot program will be deployed in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of cross-border drayage operations within a 13-mile radius of the border. The logistics associated with the crossing of the border, including customs and safety inspections on both sides of the border, requires a more thoughtful analysis on the infrastructure needs than the rest of the nation. And once we have defined the needs at the border, in Phase 2, we can look to an expanded multimodal logistics corridor to the major markets in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or if you require additional information about this critical pilot project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LJ", is written over a vertical line that extends downwards from the signature.

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