



Erik G. Milito  
President

**NATIONAL  
OCEAN  
INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION**

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

1120 G Street, NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel 202-347-6900  
Fax 202-347-8650  
[www.noia.org](http://www.noia.org)

**Reference:** INFRA Grant Application for the **LA 1 Improvement Project – Phase 2, Protecting America’s Energy Security and Independence**

February 3, 2020

Dear Secretary Chao:

The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), founded in 1972, represents all facets of the domestic offshore energy and related industries. Today, NOIA member companies are dedicated to the safe development of offshore energy for the continued growth and security of the United States. Many of our members are oil and gas producers ranging from independent companies to the largest international oil companies involved in the full range of petroleum operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

The men and women of America’s offshore energy industry are working twenty-four hours each day, 365 days each year to provide our country with a secure and affordable source of energy that allows Americans to experience a standard of living that previous generations could have only dreamed about. And energy production is an American story that has expanded the development of the energy business worldwide. American ingenuity has brought along technologies that make possible energy production in all forms. U.S. tenacity and expertise in energy development can be seen in all areas of the world.

The Gulf of Mexico provides the country with nearly 30% of its domestic oil supply and over 95% of tonnage moved in Port Fourchon is oil and gas related. Port Fourchon currently services over 95% of all Gulf of Mexico deepwater activities. Our members also contribute to recreational fishing with hundreds of decommissioned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico converted to artificial reefs where 4.5 million fish are caught by recreational fishermen annually. And our members are in the forefront of developing technology to operate more efficiently and in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Louisiana Highway 1 (LA 1) is the only land-based access route for the hundreds of enterprises that operate out of Port Fourchon. The funds provided by the INFRA grant will complete the elevation of the highway so that our members can continue to operate in south Louisiana for years to come. When evaluating the INFRA grant application, please keep in mind that the benefits from making LA 1 resilient will be shared locally, regionally, and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Milito", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Erik Milito,  
NOIA President