

## For Immediate Release

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### **Port of Cleveland Continues to Make Strategic Infrastructure Investments in its Facilities**

*Board of Directors accepts grants to fund repair of bulk terminal, improve on-site efficiency to position Port for growth*

**Cleveland, Ohio (May 11, 2017)** – The Board of Directors of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (Port of Cleveland) met today to review and approve an agenda focused on continuing its strategic upgrades to support maritime infrastructure and the multibillion dollar local maritime industry.

Recently, the Port had secured more than \$8.5 million in repurposed FHWA funds through ODOT originally secured in larger part to support buildout of a terminal for a trans-Lake Erie ferry service that did not move forward. The Port board today accepted these funds to be used instead to repair key bulkheads and improve efficiencies at Port facilities.

Over \$6 million of the funds will be used to rehabilitate structurally deficient bulkheads on the Cleveland Bulk Terminal that cause 20% of its dock capacity to lay dormant. Once complete, the project will yield unrestricted ship access along 100% of the bulkhead. In addition, the Port will dedicate over \$2 million to expand the existing entrance and security check point at the Port's general cargo docks, adding lanes to improve functionality and truck processing times, allow for expected growth, and upgrade security and signage.

The Board also approved authority for the Port to commit a local match as it pursues a \$5.9 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant to improve its ore loading facilities on its bulk terminal site. If secured, the grant would fund work that will improve efficiencies on the site to save time and resources for ships during discharge and loadout operations. This in turn will reduce congestion and air pollution on site and beyond.

“Northeast Ohio’s maritime related businesses are a major driver of our economy, producing over 20,000 local jobs and contributing over \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity,” said Will Friedman, Port President and CEO. “The Port of Cleveland is the linchpin to those maritime industries, and these critical infrastructure dollars and improvements will continue to put Cleveland in a superior position to compete in the Great Lakes market and beyond, while doing so in a greener, sustainable fashion.”

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The Port of Cleveland is a key to Northeast Ohio’s global competitiveness, providing the quickest route between North American’s Heartland and Northern Europe and linking the region to the world. An economic engine for Northeast Ohio, the Port brings over 13 million tons of cargo through the Cleveland Harbor, resulting in \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity and more than 20,000 jobs. As a Green Port on a Great Lake, the Port of Cleveland plays a leading role in the environmental restoration and revitalization of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, and helps to create vibrant, accessible waterfronts for all.

For more information, please visit the Port website at: [www.portofcleveland.com](http://www.portofcleveland.com).