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MEMORANDUM

To: Port/Rail/Transportation Strategic Planning Committee

From: Judith Kell, Grants Coordinator 

RE: Determination of Port of Muskegon as Port Group 3

Date: March 25, 2012

The Department of Homeland Security categorizes ports in groups. The Port of Muskegon is categorized in Group III. Group I ports are ports that are at great risk. Group II ports are at a lesser risk, and Group III ports are at a minimal risk. Risk, as identified by the Department of Homeland Security is a vulnerability to an action or a consequence of an action.

The Department of Homeland Security developed the DHS Risk Lexicon to categorize the country's ports. The Integrated Risk Management Framework includes processes and tools that allow DHS to gather, integrate, analyze, and communicate information about risk such that it can be used to strategically prioritize efforts and resources throughout the DHS enterprise. The DHS Risk Lexicon supports the Integrated Risk Management Framework by defining a single language for DHS risk management. The level of risk is determined by a compilation of many factors. Some of those factors are: accidental hazard, adversary, assets, attack method, attack path, capability, consequence, consequence assessment, countermeasures, deterrents, economic consequences, human consequence, integrated risk management, intentional hazard, likelihood, mission consequence, natural hazards, probability, psychological consequence, qualitative and quantitative risk assessment methodology, redundancy, residual risk, and risk score among many other factors.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the busiest ports in the world and a leading gateway for trade between the United States and Asia. Over 6 million shipping containers flow through the Port of Long Beach, an average of 16,600 per day. The Port of Long Beach is considered a Group I (great risk) port. It supports over 4,898 vessel calls, over \$155 billion in cargo, and over 316,000 jobs.

The Port of Muskegon does not have nearly the amount of cargo traffic, international trade traffic, or employee population as does a port the size of the Port of Long Beach. Although vulnerability can be associated with every port, the level of vulnerability with the Port of Muskegon based on the cargo traffic alone is minimal compared to a larger port. The Port of Muskegon is categorized as a Group III port, which is a port at minimal risk.