ALABAMA
PORT AUTHORITY
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December 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Please accept this letter as a statement of my support for approval of the federal coal lease application #ALES-55797 made by Warrior Met Coal (Warrior). This application, which is currently under review by the Department of the Interior, would permit Warrior to mine 24 million tons of metallurgical (met) coal on federal land in Alabama.

As you are aware, met coal is a component used for steel production and is not thermal coal, which is used for energy generation. This distinction is important as met coal is not subject to the recent reinstatement of the Obama Administration's coal lease ban. In fact, Warrior is dedicated entirely to mining non-thermal met coal, and its highly efficient longwall operations in Alabama supply exports of premium met coal to metal manufacturers around the world. In the 2022 fiscal year, McDuffie Coal Terminal at the Port of Mobile exported approximately 10M metric tons of met coal.

In addition to supporting the exportation of clean and efficient met coal mining products, approval of this application will help support jobs and the economy. Warrior's Alabama mine directly supports hundreds of high-paying jobs with an average annual wage of more than $90,000. Its production also supports jobs here at the Port of Mobile, where Warrior is our largest customer. An economic impact study conducted during the 2021 calendar year showed that McDuffie Coal Terminal operations at the Port of Mobile created more than 2,000 jobs directly and a direct revenue impact of more than $350M.

Based on the results of our 2021 economic impact study, we can confidently say this lease would generate additional hundreds of millions of dollars for the State of Alabama, the federal treasury, and the Port of Mobile, collectively. Supporting high-wage jobs and bolstering the economy are among the Port's top priorities, as is the responsible stewardship of Alabama's tremendous natural resources. To this end, I fully support the approval of Warrior Met Coal's lease application.

Sincerely,

John Driscoll
Director and CEO

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