



October 27, 2025

Honorable Common Council Members  
Milwaukee City Hall  
200 East Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

President Perez & Common Council Members,

As the regional economic development organization for southeastern Wisconsin, the Milwaukee 7 Regional Partnership (M7) is dedicated to driving growth by helping homegrown businesses expand and by attracting new companies and talent to our region. A vital component of that growth is the strength of our transportation and logistics infrastructure — and one of our region's most valuable assets is the Port of Milwaukee.

I am writing in strong support of Benji Timm's appointment as Municipal Port Director.

For more than a decade, Benji has collaborated with M7 to help existing companies grow and to attract new national and international investment to Milwaukee. His experience in economic development gives him a deep understanding of how logistics, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships can work together to create new opportunities. Benji's ability to "connect the dots" between the city's assets — from its industrial base to its transportation network — will be invaluable as Milwaukee continues to position itself as a hub for commerce, innovation, and good jobs.

I am confident that Benji Timm will bring strategic insight, creativity, and a deep sense of partnership to Port Milwaukee — helping the City of Milwaukee grow its economy through stronger logistics, smarter connections, and new opportunities for business and talent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Gries". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Gries  
Executive Director