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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT



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VIA EMAIL

March 22, 2022

The Honorable,
Mr. Moses "Shyne" Barrow
c/o Clerk of the National Assembly, Belize

Dear Mr. Barrow,

By way of introduction, my name is Khalif J. Rainey. I am a member of the City of Milwaukee's Common Council serving its Seventh District. I am also the chairman of our Sister Cities Committee which provides oversight of the City's various sister city relationships under the umbrella of Sister Cities International.

While the City of Milwaukee has had the good fortune to have fruitful relationships with several sister cities over the years, I have long believed that we ought to do more to promote the development of our own community and those of our sister cities through more direct economic contact. Throughout history, equal trade between nations has done much more than enhance the prosperity of those that participate in it. It has proven to be a vehicle for better social and cultural understanding.

With all this as preface, I would ask you to consider beginning a conversation with the City of Milwaukee and possible reciprocal trade arrangements that might be struck.

Located in the industrial heartland of America's Midwest, Port Milwaukee specializes in the handling of bulk (dry and liquid), project and breakbulk cargos. Situated on the western shores of Lake Michigan, the Port provides manufacturers, growers, and producers with access to global markets via the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean and to the Gulf via the Mississippi River. Regular scheduled service provided by foreign-flagged vessels results in the efficient and reliable handling of international cargo at the Port.

In addition to direct water access, two major North American railroads (Canadian Pacific and Union Pacific) serve the Port on a daily basis. Direct federal highway access to the Port ensures delay-free pickup and delivery, and access to major cities in the region within only a few hours. Available infrastructure includes 16 deep-draft docks, over 50 acres dedicated to dry bulk storage and 330,000 square feet of covered warehouse space, including 30,000 square feet of which is climate-controlled. A fully refurbished and modern liquid cargo pier, one of the fastest on the Great Lakes, and liquid storage capacity of approximately 300,000 gallons is available. Port owned cranes, including mobile crawlers with lifting capabilities up to 300 tons, provides Port Milwaukee stevedores with unique, operational flexibility.

During calendar year 2021, exports to Belize from Wisconsin were valued at approximately \$1.5 million. Primary product categories included industrial and electric machinery, vehicles and parts. Secondary exports were prep cereal/flour/milk, milling products, pharmaceuticals and optic/surgical instruments. Imports to Wisconsin from Belize were valued at approximately \$750,000 in 2021. Primary commodities were furniture/bedding/lamps, fish and aquatic invertebrates. Of note in 2020, sugars and sugar confectionary were the highest volume commodity, however, none were imported in 2021.

The \$35 million DeLong agriculture maritime export facility at Port Milwaukee is currently under construction and slated to be up and running in April 2023. This new terminal will handle various Wisconsin-grown agricultural products such as dried distilled grains with solubles, corn, soy, and wheat for bulk export to markets around the world, including Central and South America.

I see nothing here but potential and opportunity. If you are willing, I and the staff of our Port are ready to begin this conversation at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,



Alderman Khalif J. Rainey
Chair, Sister Cities Committee