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Statement by Executive Director Elaine Nessle:
CAGTC Applauds Buttigieg Confirmation to Lead USDOT

WASHINGTON, DC (February 2, 2021) – The Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) today offered its congratulations to Secretary Pete Buttigieg on his confirmation as the 19th U.S. Secretary of Transportation. CAGTC Executive Director Elaine Nessle offered the following statement:

“CAGTC is pleased the Senate swiftly approved Secretary Pete Buttigieg to run the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), particularly as his leadership is needed to guide the significant rebuilding opportunity at hand. The COVID-19 pandemic has yielded unprecedented levels of uncertainty. While many were asked to stay home and slow the spread, the nation’s multimodal supply chain worked diligently to deliver essential medical equipment and household goods alike.

Our goods movement system is a national asset that requires federal investment and policy guidance to meet growing demands. During his confirmation hearing, Secretary Buttigieg expressed support for increased investment in freight infrastructure through multimodal discretionary grant programs, such as BUILD and INFRA, describing President Biden’s vision to transform and improve America’s infrastructure as a ‘generational opportunity.’ He also called for increased transparency in the competitive grant award process. Both of these notions are long-held CAGTC principles and we look forward to working with Secretary Buttigieg to achieve these shared goals.

Secretary Buttigieg will have an excellent asset in President Biden’s nomination for Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Polly Trottenberg. From her service on Capitol Hill and at USDOT to leading New York City’s Department of Transportation, Deputy Secretary-designate Trottenberg is a highly respected transportation policy expert and will be a valuable member of Secretary Buttigieg’s team.

As our nation charts a path for economic recovery, much will be asked of our freight system. Now more than ever, significant federal investment is needed to support our essential supply chains and guide our nation to economic recovery and prosperity.”

About the Coalition
The Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) is a diverse Coalition of more than 60 public and private organizations dedicated to increasing federal investment in America’s intermodal freight infrastructure. In contrast to single mode interests, CAGTC’s main mission is to promote a seamless goods movement transportation system across all modes to enhance capacity and economic growth. For more information on the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors, please visit www.tradecorridors.org

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