

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing to express support for Peter Vigue's nomination for membership on the National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC). We applaud your decision to establish the NFAC and fully endorse its purpose and goals. We believe that Peter Vigue, of Pittsfield, Maine, is well qualified for and, if selected, would be a valuable member of this important committee. We understand that he is currently working to complete the requirements associated with the application process.

Mr. Vigue is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Cianbro Companies, a large-scale construction contractor with a remarkably diverse portfolio of projects. Headquartered in Pittsfield, Maine, Cianbro currently operates in over forty states and employs 4,000 individuals.

Mr. Vigue began working with Cianbro as a youth and worked his way up in the company until he was named CEO in January, 1991. His remarkable rise is but one indicator of his exceptional ability, intelligence, drive, and judgment. He has an unparalleled work ethic and an endless capacity to master and resolve complex challenges. Under Mr. Vigue's leadership, Cianbro has grown to one of the largest and most diversified contractors on the east coast. It was his vision that led Cianbro to redevelop the former Eastern Fine Paper Mill in Brewer into a state-of-the-art modular manufacturing facility. That new facility shipped 51 massive, technology-intensive, modules to Texas for the first new refinery project in the United States in more than 30 years. As a result of that project, Cianbro created more than 700 local jobs that resulted in nearly two million work hours for our state, and brought more than 100 million dollars to our economy in the midst of the worst recession in generations.

This same facility shipped 22 electrical building modules to Long Harbour, Newfoundland, for a new nickel processing plant for Vale, an international mining company based in Brazil. Cianbro manufactured the modules in Brewer providing work for more than 100 employees. Each module weighed over 600 tons, and was between one and three stories high. They were loaded onto barges in Brewer, Maine, and shipped down the Penobscot River and up the coast to the Long Harbour site.

We note that the Department of Transportation requires members of the NFAC to provide perspective on 1) modes of transportation, 2) regional transportation, 3) relevant policy areas such as economic competitiveness, 4) freight customers, and, 5) government bodies. Mr. Vigue's background has uniquely qualified him to meet each of these standards.

Modes of Transportation: Cianbro, itself, has been involved in road-related construction projects—principally bridge building—since its inception. Because Cianbro is regularly involved in large-scale construction projects, the company must frequently consider multi-modal connectivity in considering how to fabricate and assemble components for these projects, some of which can be enormous in size and scope. When possible, such components are assembled on site. Under such circumstances, road, rail, and water transportation systems must be carefully evaluated to determine how to move these components to their destinations safely and efficiently. The Eastern Fine facility provides an excellent example of Mr. Vigue's vision in recognizing the opportunity presented by siting a large-scale manufacturing facility on the shores of a major New England river, providing inexpensive and efficient waterborne transportation, quite literally, to the rest of the world.

Regional Transportation: Under Mr. Vigue's leadership, Cianbro has also undertaken a comprehensive assessment of regional transportation connectivity, with the goal of identifying shortcomings. This assessment built upon a report of the CanAm transportation study, which was conducted by American and Canadian transportation officials. This work is indicative of his in-depth familiarity with road, rail, port, and air connections in the eastern third of the U.S. and beyond.

Relevant Policy—Economic Competitiveness, Safety, Labor, and Environment: Mr. Vigue understands the relationship between safe and efficient multi-modal transportation and economic competitiveness. He knows firsthand the burden that unsafe and inefficient transportation links impose on a region, and the impediment of these shortfalls on economic development.

Mr. Vigue made worker safety a top priority for Cianbro. Despite the inherent dangers related to construction work, his company has among the best worker safety records in the nation. Despite the inherent dangers related to construction work, his company has among the best worker safety records in the nation having been awarded the Associated Builders and Contractors STEP award, demonstrating an exemplary construction safety and health program that meets strict safety standards in 20 categories. The Maine Department of Labor and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration recognized Cianbro as being certified under the SHARP program because of its exemplary achievements in workplace safety and health. Indeed, Cianbro's record for worker safety is nothing short of astonishing, with Cianbro workers compiling 11,000,000 work hours without a reported injury.

He also recognizes the direct connection between worker health and worker safety, and has promoted innovative and very effective wellness practices in the company. Cianbro's accomplishments in this regard won official recognition through the Wellness Councils of America Platinum Level Achievement Award.

In addition, in 2004 the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine recognized Cianbro with its Corporate Health Achievement Award, designating Cianbro as the "healthiest and safest company in America."

It must also be noted that Mr. Vigue devotes significant time and energy to ensuring that the company's work is conducted in a manner that strikes the proper balance between important project development and environmental concerns. Many of Cianbro's large-scale projects require detailed environmental impact studies, which include input from environmental organizations and interest groups. His collaborative approach has helped ensure that the company's projects have minimal effects on the environment.

Freight Customers and Providers: Cianbro's large scale projects frequently require detailed consideration regarding siting and transportation to and from the site. These considerations apply as well the freight providers which Cianbro utilizes for these projects. This frequently requires detailed discussions about each provider's capabilities, resources, and timetables. In short, Mr. Vigue has deep practical knowledge of the relationship between safe and efficient multi-modal transportation infrastructure and the needs and capabilities of Cianbro's freight customers and providers.

Government Bodies: Cianbro's projects require that Mr. Vigue frequently interacts with government bodies—particularly various departments of transportation and the environment, as well as public safety organizations. He understands and greatly respects the mission of these departments and their obligation to promote the safety and health of the citizenry. He also understands the importance of the standards and processes that these governmental bodies must follow, and the need to provide them with relevant information, and to develop a cooperative and professional relationships.

In conclusion we believe that Peter Vigue amply meets each of the criteria you have established for the NFAC. If selected for this this position, we know he be would an extraordinarily valuable member of this Committee. We ask that you give his application careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senate



Angus S. King
United States Senate