

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Simpson and Ranking Members Lowey and Kaptur:

On behalf of the undersigned navigation stakeholders, we write to respectfully urge you to pass a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies (E&W) Appropriations Act to fund the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) navigation program. We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the nexus between water resources development and economic prosperity, and we appreciate your efforts to increase USACE navigation program funding. In comparing the E&W appropriations bill passed by the Senate and the bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee last year, for the programs listed below we request:

- \$381.3 million additional Operations and Maintenance account funding included in the House bill,
- \$325.25 million additional Construction funding included in the House bill,
- \$50 million Donor and Energy Transfer Port funding in the Senate bill, and
- \$15 million additional Investigations funding in the Senate bill.

We also support the following critical items addressed in both the House and Senate bills:

- Continued annual progress towards the goal of full Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) funding for navigation channel maintenance;
- Supported full use of increased IWTF revenues on lock construction and major rehabilitations;
- Funding WRRDA-authorized navigation channel improvement projects;
- Continued annual funding increases for inland navigation operations and maintenance;
- Enabled existing USACE navigation planning studies to achieve WRRDA 2014's three-year completion schedule and begin new navigation studies;

- Funded donor and energy transfer port work authorized in WRRDA 2014 Section 2106; and
- Providing for new study and construction starts.

Federal investments in navigation-related infrastructure are an essential and effective utilization of limited resources. These investments pay dividends through increased trade and international competitiveness, sustainable job creation and more than \$200 billion annually in federal, state and local tax revenues. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and members of the Subcommittee and full Committee in support of passing a FY 2017 E&W Appropriations bill that will provide a robust navigation construction program, increased navigation channel availability and navigation lock reliability and timely completion of navigation studies. These efforts will enable safe and efficient freight movement that is essential to our nation's 21st century economic growth.

Sincerely,

American Association of Port Authorities
 Waterways Council, Inc.
 American Great Lakes Ports Association
 American Iron and Steel Institute
 American Petroleum Institute
 American Road and Transportation Builders Association
 American Society of Civil Engineers
 American Waterways Operators
 Associated General Contractors
 Association of Ship Brokers and Agents
 Big River Coalition
 California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
 Connecticut Maritime Association
 Connecticut Port Authority

Dredging Contractors of America
 Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
 Gulf Ports Association of the Americas
 Lake Carriers Association
 Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
 Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
 Maryland Port Administration
 Massachusetts Port Authority
 Propeller Club of Boston
 National Association of Maritime Organizations
 North Atlantic Ports Association
 Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
 Virginia Maritime Association