

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
186 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairmen Cochran and Alexander and Ranking Members Leahy and Feinstein:

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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