

October 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 - 1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your efforts to increase U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works program harbor maintenance funding in your annual Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (E&W) Appropriations Acts.

The undersigned organizations urge that when you enter into negotiations to complete Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) annual appropriations legislation, you support Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) work funded at a level that will '*Hit the HMT Target*' established in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) section 2101(b)(1)(A). WRRDA passed with very strong bipartisan support: 412-4 and 91-7 in the House and Senate respectively. In July, the House '*Hit the HMT Target*' in its E&W Appropriations bill through a floor amendment that passed by a 281-137 vote.

Additionally, we support allocating FY15 and future years HMT work consistent with WRRDA 2014's allocation authorizations. WRRDA established a new funds distribution approach to apply increased HMT related appropriations to all navigation projects – high and moderate use, emerging, underserved, and Great Lakes ports, along with expanded uses at donor ports.

Enough HMT revenue is collected each year to meet the nation's annual authorized harbor maintenance needs for harbors of all sizes. Unfortunately, harbors and navigation channels are getting narrower and shallower due to accumulating sediment, dredged material disposal area capacity is declining, and harbor structures such as breakwaters and jetties are deteriorating due to inadequate funding.

The Army Corps of Engineers has reported that nationwide authorized channel depths are available about half of the time, and then only over half of the channel's width. This drives up the cost of U.S. exports and imports, which threatens U.S. economic growth and increases the risk of vessel groundings and associated oil spills. Many U.S. exports compete in a very price-sensitive global market where transportation inefficiencies mean losing business to other countries. Underutilization of HMT revenue threatens the continued operation of small and medium-sized harbors, and some have closed due to inadequate maintenance.

Harbors and navigation channels are a vital part of our nation's transportation infrastructure, and the elimination or reduction in their capacity can have significant impacts on local communities and economies. WRRDA 2014 recognizes both the national need to increase harbor maintenance spending and the local and regional economic impacts of harbors of different sizes and types of commerce.

Full use of HMT is urgently needed for safe and efficient freight transportation and is desired by navigation stakeholders. Congress, through WRRDA 2014, committed to achieve full use of HMT through incremental increases over a ten-year period, with FY15 being the first year. It is vitally important that this commitment be met.

While addressing increased funding is difficult, the United States should not miss opportunities to spur economic growth, improve our global competitiveness and create jobs. We urge you to craft a final FY15 E&W Appropriations bill (or title within an omnibus appropriations bill) that meets WRRDA 2014's FY15 HMT spending target and allocation provisions to maintain the nation's shipping channels, gateways to the global marketplace.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned:

A.C. Providenti	Central Healthcare Services
Admiral Security Services, Inc.	CEMEX
AEP River Operations	CGB Enterprises, Inc.
AGP Grain, Ltd.	CHS Terminal
AK Steel	Channel Design Group
Agriculture Transportation Coalition	CMS Energy
Alabama State Port Authority	CN
American Apparel & Footwear Association	CSX Transportation, Toledo Docks
American Association of Port Authorities	Calcasieu River Waterway Harbor Safety Committee
American Great Lakes Ports Association	California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
American Maritime Officers Service	Cambridge Marine Construction, Inc.
American Maritime Officers, AFL-CIO	Carmeuse Lime, Inc.
American Petroleum Institute	Central Dock Company
American Rental Association	Central Marine Logistics, Inc.
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)	Chetco (Brookings Harbor), OR
American Shipbuilding Association	Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
American Society of Civil Engineers	Chicago Port Council
American Steamship Company	Chornco
American Waterways Operators	Citgo Petroleum Corporation
America's Energy Coast	City of Depoe Bay
Arcelor Mittal Steel	City of Petersburg, AK
Archer Daniels Midland	City of Rockland, ME
Arkansas Waterways Commission	City of Superior Planning Department
Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New Orleans (Bar Pilots)	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
Associated Federal Pilots and Docking Masters of Louisiana	Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, OH
Associated General Contractors	Connecticut Maritime Coalition
Associated Oregon Industries	Collins Engineers, Inc.
Associated Terminals, LLC	Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association
Association of Maryland Pilots	Coquille (Bandon), OR
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (USA) Inc.	Complete Logistical Services
BASF	Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring
Baird & Assocs.	Cooper/T. Smith Mooring Co.
Barwell Agencies (NA), Inc.	Corus
Bay Engineering, Inc.	Cottrell Engineering
Bay Planning Coalition	Crescent River Port Pilots Association
Bay Shipbuilding Company	Crescent City Democratic Association
Beihl & Company, Inc.	Crescent Towing Co.
Belle Chasse Marine Transportation, Inc.	Curry County, OR
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	Deloach Marine Services, LLC
Bertel Shipping Co.	Detroit Edison
Big River Coalition	Detroit Lodge No. 7, International Shipmasters' Association
Bisso Towboat Co., Inc.	Detroit Regional Chamber
Blessey Marine Services, Inc.	Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority - Detroit, MI
Blue Marine Security	District No. 1-PCD, MEBA, AFL-CIO Dock 63 Inc.
Blue Water Shipping Company	Dole Terminal at Port of Wilmington, DE
Brown County Port & Solid Waste Dept.	Dow Chemical
Building America's Future	Dredge America
Bunge Limited	Dredging Contractors of America
Celtic International Shipping Agency	Dredging Supply Company, Inc.
	Duffy Maritime Consultants, LLC

Duluth Seaway Port Authority, MN  
 Eagle Rock Aggregates Inc.  
 Edw. C. Levy Co.  
 Economic Alliance Snohomish County  
 Ellicott Dredges  
 Emerald International Corporation  
 Erie Shipbuilding, LLC  
 ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company  
 Faulkner, Muskovitz & Phillips, LLP  
 Fillette Green Shipping Services Corporation  
 Flats Oxbow Association Fox River Dock Co., Inc.  
 Foresight Energy  
 Fraser Shipyards Freeport LNG Development, LP  
 GAC Shipping, Inc.  
 Gateway Trade Center, Inc.  
 Georgia Ports Authority  
 General Maritime Transportation Services, Inc.  
 General Steamship Corporation  
 Golding Barge  
 Gordley Associates  
 Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal  
 Protection, Restoration and Conservation  
 Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Grand River Navigation Company, Inc.  
 Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition  
 Great Lakes District Council, ILA, AFL-CIO  
 Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co., LLC  
 Great Lakes Fleet, Inc. / Key Lakes, Inc.  
 Great Lakes Maritime Task Force  
 Greater New Orleans, Inc.  
 Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition  
 Greater Houston Partnership  
 Greater Houston Port Bureau  
 Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce  
 Gulf Harbor Shipping  
 Gulf Inland Marine Services, Inc.  
 Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA)  
 Gulf Ports Association of the Americas  
 Gulf South Marine  
 Gulf States Maritime Association (GSMA)  
 Hallett Dock Company  
 Hannah Marine Corporation  
 Harbormaster of Greenwich, CT Harbor and  
 Terminal District  
 Hua Liu  
 ILA - Lake Erie Coal & Ore Dock Council  
 ILA - Local 1317  
 ILA - Local 1768  
 Illinois International Port District  
 Inchcape Shipping Services  
 Ingram Barge  
 Inland Boatmen's Union of the Pacific  
 Inland Rivers Ports and Terminal, Inc.

Intl. Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
 Intl. Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots  
 International Association of Machinists and  
 Aerospace Workers #157  
 International Freight Forwarders and Customs  
 Brokers Association of New Orleans  
 International Liquid Terminals Association  
 International Marine Terminals  
 International Ship Masters Association  
 International Union of Operating Engineers  
 Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Jantran, Inc.  
 Jason Yellin  
 Jay Cashman, Inc.  
 Jaxport, FL  
 JE McAmis, Inc.  
 J.W. Allen & Co., Inc.  
 K&C Shipping, Inc.  
 K&L Gates  
 Kinder Morgan Terminals  
 L.W. Matteson  
 Lafarge North America  
 Lake Carriers Association  
 Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District  
 Lake Charles Pilots  
 Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service, Inc.  
 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
 Lakes Pilots Association (Louisiana)  
 LBH USA  
 Louisiana Maritime Association  
 Louisiana Maritime International Chamber of Commerce  
 Lower MS River Waterways Safety Advisory  
 Committee  
 Lorain Port Authority  
 Louisiana Assoc of Business and Industry  
 Louisiana Maritime Association Luedtke  
 Engineering Company MCM Marine, Inc.  
 Maersk Lines LTD  
 Magnolia Fleet  
 Manson Construction  
 Marathon Petroleum Company, LP  
 Marsha Cohen  
 Marine Tech, LLC  
 Maritime Endeavors Shipping Co.  
 Maritime Exchange for Delaware River and Bay  
 Maritime Navigation Safety Association (MNSA)  
 Maryland Port Administration  
 Massachusetts Division of Waterways  
 Massachusetts Port Authority  
 Masterpiece International  
 Matt Friedman  
 Matthew Tucker

Max Allman	Port of Galveston, TX
Michigan Maritime Trades Port Council, MTD, AFL-CIO	Port of Grays Harbor, WA
Mid-Gulf Shipping Company, Inc.	Port of Greater Baton Rouge, LA
Midwest Energy Resources Company	Port of Harlingen Authority, TX
Midwest Terminals of Toledo, International, Inc.	Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor District, CA
Mike Hooks Inc.	Port of Humboldt Bay, CA
Mississippi River Association	Port of Houston, TX
Mississippi Valley Trade & Transport Council	Port of Ilwaco, WA
Mobile Bar Pilots Association	Port of Kingston, WA
Moran-Gulf Shipping Agencies, Inc.	Port of Little Rock
Moss Landing Harbor District, CA	Port of Longview, WA
Naftilos Shipping Agencies	Port of Memphis
Natchez Port Authority	Port of Morgan City
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber / CVB	Port of Muskogee
National Association of Manufacturers	Port of New Orleans, LA
National Association of Maritime Organizations	Port of Newport
National Association of Waterfront Employers	Port of Oakland, CA
National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America	Port of Olympia, WA
National Mining Association	Port of Orange, TX
National Retail Federation	Port of Palm Beach, FL
National Waterways Conference	Port of Pascagoula, MS
New Orleans Board of Trade	Port of Peninsula, Nahcotta, WA
New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association	Port of Pittsburgh
New Orleans Private Patrol Service	Port of Port Angeles, WA
Newship USA, Inc.	Port of Port Arthur, TX
New York Shipping Association	Port of Portland, OR
Nord-Sud Shipping, Inc.	Port of South Louisiana
Norfolk Dredging	Port of Stockton, CA
Norfolk Southern Corp (coal docks in Sandusky & Ashtabula, OH)	Port Tampa Bay, FL
Norton Lilly International	The Pearce Group
North American Port Infrastructure LLC NSA Agencies, Inc.	Pere Marquette Shipping Company
OAHU EXPRESS, LTD	Pickands Mather Lake Services Company, Inc. Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assns.
Odom Hydrographic Systems	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association	Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel
Orion Marine Construction, Inc.	Port Manatee, FL
Orion Marine Group	Port of Astoria, OR
Osborne Concrete & Stone Co.	Port of Coos Bay, OR
Pacific-Gulf Marine, Inc.	Port of the Dalles
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association	Port of Garibaldi
Page & Jones, Inc.	Port of Gold Beach
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry	Port of Oswego Authority
Plaquemines Parish	Port of San Francisco, CA
Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, LA	Port of Siuslaw, OR
Plaquemines Parish Council	Port of Toledo, OR
Port Freeport, TX	Port of Victoria, TX
Port of Albany, NY	Port Orford, OR
Port of Chinook, WA	Port Ship Service
Port of Everett, WA	Ports America
	Ports of Indiana
	Propeller Club of the Port of New Orleans
	Provincetown Harbormaster

Radio Holland  
 Ragged Rock Marina, CT  
 Raven Energy LLC of Louisiana  
 R.E. Staite Engineering, Inc.  
 Resolve Marine Group  
 Robert Y Jones & Carter, Inc.  
 Richard Paget  
 Riley-Sherman Shipping Agency  
 Rita Foti Rogue (Gold Beach), OR  
 River Parishes Company  
 Russell Marine Group  
 Ryba Marine Construction Co.  
 Sargent Companies  
 Seafarers International Union  
 Seagull Marine, Inc.  
 Seattle Chamber of Commerce  
 Soo Marine Supply, Inc.  
 Southern United States Trade  
 Association  
 Southport Agencies, Inc.  
 Soy Transportation Council  
 St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District  
 St. James Stevedoring Partners LLC  
 St. John the Baptist Parish, LA  
 St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots Association  
 State of Louisiana  
 Steele Associates Marine Consultants, LLC  
 Summit Marine Services  
 The Dutra Group  
 The Honorable Helen Bentley (R-MD)  
 The Interlake Steamship Company  
 The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey  
 The Port of Milwaukee, WI  
 The Propeller Club Port of New Orleans  
 Toledo Port Council, MTD, AFL-CIO  
 Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, OH  
 Town of Dennis, MA  
 Town of Wellfleet, MA  
 T. Parker Host, Inc.  
 Trafigura  
 Transmarine Navigation Corporation  
 Transportation Committee of the World Trade  
 Center of the Port of New Orleans  
 Transportation Institute  
 Tulsa Port of Catoosa  
 Tricon Steamship Agency, Inc.  
 Trinity Shipping, Inc.  
 Turn Services  
 United States Great Lakes Shipping Association  
 U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
 United Rentals  
 United States Maritime Alliance  
 United Steelworkers, District 1, AFL-CIO-CLC

United Steelworkers, Local 5000 US Steel Corp.  
 Valero Energy Corporation  
 Venice Port Coalition  
 Venice Port Complex  
 Virgin Islands Port Authority  
 Warren County Port Commission  
 Washington Council on International Trade  
 Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
 Waterways Council, Inc.  
 Weber Marine, Inc.  
 Weeks Marine  
 Western Great Lakes Pilots Association  
 Western Growers Association  
 West Creek Capital  
 West Gulf Maritime Association  
 Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Co.  
 Wilhelmsen Ships Service  
 Willapa Harbor, WA  
 Wirt Stone Docks  
 World Trade Center Mississippi River Alliance  
 World Trade Center New Orleans' International  
 Business Committee  
 World Trade Center of New Orleans  
 Yankee Mari  
 Zen-Noh Grain Corporation

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