

October 22, 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
AEP River Operations
AGP Grain, Ltd.
AK Steel
Admiral Security Services, Inc.
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Alabama State Port Authority
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Port Authorities
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
American Great Lakes Ports Association
American Maritime Officers, AFL-CIO
American Maritime Officers Service
American Petroleum Institute
American Rental Association
American Road & Transportation Builders
Association (ARTBA)
American Shipbuilding Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Steamship Company
American Waterways Operators
America's Energy Coast
Arcelor Mittal Steel
Archer Daniels Midland
Arkansas Waterways Commission
Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New
Orleans (Bar Pilots)
Associated Federal Pilots and Docking Masters
of Louisiana
Associated General Contractors
Associated Oregon Industries
Associated Terminals, LLC
Association of Maryland Pilots
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (USA) Inc.
BASF
Baird & Assocs.
Barwell Agencies (NA), Inc.
Bay Engineering, Inc.
Bay Planning Coalition
Bay Shipbuilding Company
Beihl & Company, Inc.
Belle Chasse Marine Transportation, Inc.
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Bertel Shipping Co.
Big River Coalition
Bisso Towboat Co., Inc.
Blessey Marine Services, Inc.
Blue Marine Security
Blue Water Shipping Company
Brown County Port & Solid Waste Dept.
Building America's Future
Bulkship Maritime Agency, Inc.

Bunge Limited
CEMEX
CGB Enterprises, Inc.
CHS Terminal
CMS Energy
CN
CSX Transportation, Toledo Docks
Calcasieu River Waterway Harbor Safety
Committee
Calhoun Port Authority, TX
California Association of Harbor Masters and Port
Captains
California Marine Affairs and Navigation
Conference
Cambridge Marine Construction, Inc.
Carmeuse Lime, Inc.
Celtic International Shipping Agency
Central Dock Company
Central Health Care Services
Central Marine Logistics, Inc.
Channel Design Group
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Chicago Port Council
Chornco
Citgo Petroleum Corporation
City of Depoe Bay
City of Morro Bay, CA
City of Newport Beach, CA
City of Petersburg, AK
City of Rockland, ME
City of Superior Planning Department
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, OH
Collins Engineers, Inc.
Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association
Complete Logistical Services
Connecticut Maritime Coalition
Cooper/T. Smith Mooring Co.
Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring
Coquille (Bandon), OR
Corus
Cottrell Engineering
Council of Industries
Crescent City Democratic Association
Crescent River Port Pilots Association
Crescent Towing Co.
Curry County, OR
Deloach Marine Services, LLC
Detroit Edison
Detroit Lodge No. 7, International Shipmasters'
Association
Detroit Regional Chamber
Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority - Detroit, MI
District No. 1-PCD, MEBA, AFL-CIO Dock 63 Inc.

Dole Terminal at Port of Wilmington, DE
Dow Chemical
Dredge America
Dredging Contractors of America
Dredging Supply Company, Inc.
Duffy Maritime Consultants, LLC
Duluth Seaway Port Authority, MN
Eagle Rock Aggregates Inc.
Economic Alliance Snohomish County
Edw. C. Levy Co.
Ellicott Dredges
Emerald International Corporation
Erie Shipbuilding, LLC
ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company
Faulkner, Muskovitz & Phillips, LLP
Fillette Green Shipping Services Corporation
Flats Oxbow Association
Florida Ports Council
Foresight Energy
Fox River Dock Co., Inc.
Fraser Shipyards
Freeport LNG Development, LP
FuturePorts
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 District Council, ILA, AFL-CIO
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co., LLC
Great Lakes Fleet, Inc. / Key Lakes, Inc.
Great Lakes Maritime Task Force
Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition
Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater Houston Port Bureau
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
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.
Intermodal Association of North America
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference (IMCC)
International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers #157
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Freight Forwarders and Customs
Brokers Association of New Orleans
International Liquid Terminals Association
International Marine Terminals
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
International Propeller Club of the United States
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
LBH USA
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)
Levin Richmond Terminal
Lorain Port Authority
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
Louisiana Maritime Association
Louisiana Maritime International Chamber of Commerce
Louisiana Maritime Association
Lower Mississippi River Waterways Safety Advisory
Committee
Luedtke Engineering Company MCM
Marine, Inc.
Maersk Lines LTD
Magnolia Fleet
Manson Construction

Marathon Petroleum Company, LP
Marine Tech, LLC
Maritime Endeavors Shipping Co.
Maritime Exchange for Delaware River and Bay
Maritime Navigation Safety Association (MNSA)
Marsha Cohen
Maryland Port Administration
Massachusetts Division of Waterways
Massachusetts Port Authority
Masterpiece International
Matt Friedman
Matthew Tucker
Max Allman
Michigan Maritime Trades Port Council, MTD, AFL-
CIO
Mid-Gulf Shipping Company, Inc
Midwest Energy Resources Company
Midwest Terminals of Toledo, International, Inc.
Mike Hooks Inc.
Mississippi River Association
Mississippi State Port Authority
Mississippi Valley Trade & Transport Council
Mobile Bar Pilots Association
Moran-Gulf Shipping Agencies, Inc.
Moss Landing Harbor District, CA
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber / CVB
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development
Association
Naftilos Shipping Agencies
Natchez Port Authority
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Maritime Organizations
National Association of Waterfront Employers
National Customs Brokers & Forwarders
Association of America
National Mining Association
National Retail Federation
National Waterways Conference
New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots
Association
New Orleans Board of Trade
New Orleans Private Patrol Service
Newship USA, Inc.
New York Shipping Association
Nord-Sud Shipping, Inc.
Norfolk Dredging
Norfolk Southern Corp (coal docks in Sandusky
& Ashtabula, OH)
Norton Lilly International
North American Port Infrastructure LLC
NSA Agencies, Inc.
Oahu Express, Ltd.
Oceanside Harbor, CA
Odom Hydrographic Systems

Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Oregon Public Ports Association
Orion Marine Construction, Inc.
Orion Marine Group
Osborne Concrete & Stone Co.
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers & Freight
Forwarders Assns.
Pacific-Gulf Marine, Inc.
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Page & Jones, Inc.
Pere Marquette Shipping Company
Pickands Mather Lake Services Company, Inc.
Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel
Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
Plaquemines Parish
Plaquemines Parish Council
Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, LA
Port Everglades/Broward County, FL
Port Freeport, TX
Port Manatee, FL
PortMiami
Port of Albany, NY
Port of Alsea
Port of Arlington
Port of Astoria, OR
Port of Bandon
Port of Beaumont, TX
Port of Brookings Harbor
Port of Cascade Locks
Port of Chinook, WA
Port of Coquille River
Port of Everett, WA
Port of Galveston, TX
Port of Garibaldi
Port of Gold Beach
Port of Grays Harbor, WA
Port of Greater Baton Rouge, LA
Port of Harlingen Authority, TX
Port of Hood River
Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor District, CA
Port of Humboldt Bay, CA
Port of Houston, TX
Port of Ilwaco, WA
Port of Kingston, WA
Port of Little Rock
Port of Long Beach
Port of Longview, WA
Port of Los Angeles, CA
Port of Memphis
Port of Morgan City
Port of Morrow
Port of Muskogee
Port of Nehalem

Port of New Orleans, LA
Port of Newport
Port of Oakland, CA
Port of Olympia, WA
Port of Orange, TX
Port of Oswego Authority
Port of Palm Beach, FL
Port of Pascagoula, MS
Port of Peninsula, Nahcotta, WA
Port of Pittsburgh
Port of Port Angeles, WA
Port of Port Arthur, TX
Port of Port Orford
Port of Portland, OR
Port of Redwood City
Port of St. Helens
Port of San Francisco, CA
Port of Siuslaw, OR
Port of South Louisiana
Port of Stockton, CA
Port of Texas City, TX
Port of the Dalles
Port of Tillamook Bay
Port of Toledo, OR
Port of Umatilla
Port of Umatilla
Port of Victoria, TX
Port Orford, OR
Port San Luis Harbor District
Port Ship Service
Port Tampa Bay, FL
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
Richard Paget
Richmond Pacific Railroad
Riley-Sherman Shipping Agency
Rita Foti Rogue (Gold Beach), OR
River Parishes Company
Robert Y Jones & Carter, Inc.
Russell Marine Group
Ryba Marine Construction Co.
Sabine Neches Navigation District
Santa Cruz Port
Sargent Companies
Seafarers International Union
Seagull Marine, Inc.
Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Sonoma County Regional Parks
Soo Marine Supply, Inc.
Southern United States Trade Association
Southport Agencies, Inc.
Soy Transportation Council
Spud Point Marina
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
T. Parker Host, Inc.
The Dutra Group
The Honorable Helen Bentley (R-MD)
The Interlake Steamship Company
The National Industrial Transportation League
The Pearce Group
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
The Port of Milwaukee, WI
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, OH
Toledo Port Council, MTD, AFL-CIO
Town of Dennis, MA
Town of Wellfleet, MA
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 Rentals
United States Great Lakes Shipping Association
United States Maritime Alliance
United Steelworkers, District 1, AFL-CIO-CLC
United Steelworkers, Local 5000
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Steel Corp.
Valero Energy Corporation
Venice Port Coalition
Venice Port Complex
Ventura Port District, CA
Virgin Islands Port Authority
Virginia 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 Shipping Council
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