

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Bruce Evans

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Chuck Kieffer

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
SD-142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Jen Armstrong

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
SD-188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
c/o Samantha Nelson

Chairmen Cochran and Alexander, Ranking Members Leahy and Feinstein:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) represents public port agencies throughout the Western Hemisphere, including all major U.S. port authorities on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf and Great Lakes coasts. We write to you today on behalf of our U.S. members regarding funding the navigation program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

AAPA appreciates your increased funding over the Administration's budget request. We are hopeful that the recent budget agreement will provide the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee with additional resources that can be applied to the Corps of Engineers navigation program.

As you finalize the Energy and Water Development (E&WD) appropriations bill for FY 2018, AAPA urges you to fund the various Corps navigation program components at the following levels:

- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) – \$1.3 billion for coastal navigation work;
- Construction – \$250 million for navigation;
- Investigations – \$15 million for coastal and deep draft navigation; and
- Donor and Energy Transfer Port funding – \$50 million for WRRDA Section 2106 work.

AAPA strongly recommends the additional funding amounts for these programs to help accelerate restoration of full channel dimensions, advance navigation channel deepenings and provide tax fairness to Harbor Maintenance Tax donors.

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the nexus between water resources development and economic prosperity. Federal investments in navigation-related infrastructure are an essential and effective utilization of limited resources, paying dividends through increased trade and international competitiveness, sustainable job creation and more than \$320 billion annually in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt J. Nagle", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kurt J. Nagle
President & CEO
KJN/JW