

August 7, 2018

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 Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Angie Giancarlo

The Honorable Diane 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

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

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Simpson and Ranking Members Feinstein and Kaptur:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) represents public port agencies throughout the Western Hemisphere. 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. As you finalize the Energy and Water Development (E&WD) appropriations for FY 2019, AAPA urges you to adopt various programmatic funding components from the House and Senate Appropriations bills. Specifically, AAPA supports the following funding provisions:

- House operations and maintenance (O&M) of \$612.902 million for coastal navigation work, including (1) deep draft, (2) small remote and subsistence, and (3) navigation maintenance;
- House construction program of \$525.067 million for navigation;
- Senate investigations program of \$18.823 million for coastal and deep draft navigation;
- Funding \$50 million in both the House and Senate's bills for the donor and energy transfer port program; and
- AAPA requests that the final bill includes the House and Senate's rejection of creating a separate account for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, as this would adversely impact dredging efforts during periods of Continuing Resolutions.

AAPA urges funding for these programs, which will accelerate restoration of full channel dimensions, advance navigation channel deepenings and provide more 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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle
President & CEO
KJN/jw