

March 29, 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, 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. As you develop the Energy and Water Development (E&WD) appropriations for FY 2019, AAPA urges you to fund the Corps of Engineers Navigation Program at a minimum of \$3.3 billion as supported by a broad group of navigation stakeholders. This will provide increased funding for navigation channel improvement projects and full use of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenues to provide tax fairness.

As you address the additional \$10 billion in FY 2019 discretionary spending provided in last month's budget agreement, AAPA seeks an additional \$900 million for channel maintenance to expedite freight movement through navigation channels and \$310 million for channel improvement projects. This is one-tenth of AAPA's 10-year infrastructure investment request to fully use the \$9 billion HMT surplus and the \$3.1 billion federal cost share for navigation channel improvement projects authorized in WRRDA 2014 and WIIN 2016. These additional funds would help stimulate ports to build 21st century infrastructure.

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle
President & CEO
KJN/jw

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Full Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Full Committee
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, House Appropriations Full Committee
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Full Committee