

April 1, 2019

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 Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Michael Brain

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 Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o Angie Giancarlo

Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairwoman Kaptur, Ranking Member Feinstein and Ranking Member Simpson,

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 2020, AAPA urges you to fund the Corps of Engineers Navigation Program at a minimum of \$3.45 billion as supported by a broad group of navigation stakeholders. Within these funds, AAPA supports coastal navigation funding of

\$1.56 Billion for Operations and Maintenance,
\$500 Million for Construction,
\$18 Million for Investigations, and
\$50 Million for Donor and Energy Transfer Ports.

This provides increased funding for navigation channel improvement projects and meets the FY 2020 target of \$1.59 billion for Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) funding. AAPA appreciates the progress made in FY 2019 towards full use of the prior years HMT revenues and encourages achieving this long sought goal in FY 2020.

Should the ongoing Budget Committee discussions provide the opportunity for infrastructure funding as it did in the FY 2018-2019 agreement, AAPA seeks an additional \$900 million for channel maintenance to expedite freight movement through navigation channels and an additional \$310 million for channel improvement projects. These amounts represent 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 recent WRDA legislation. 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 over \$378 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 Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations