# Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Simpson and Ranking Members Lowey and Kaptur:

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 $1.166 billion appropriated for harbor maintenance in the House-passed Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) bill meets the target that is included in section 2101(b)(1)(A) of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 and will allow many harbors to make a dent in the increasing nationwide backlog of harbor maintenance needs.

We write to request that when you enter into negotiations with your Senate counterparts to complete FY15 annual appropriations legislation you hold the line at a final FY15 harbor maintenance funding level that meets the WRRDA 2014 target for that year, which has strong support in the House. The House supported the WRRDA conference report by a 412-4 vote and supported increasing FY15 harbor maintenance funding to the WRRDA 2014 target level by a 281-137 vote. Additionally, we support allocating FY15 harbor maintenance funding consistent with WRRDA 2014's allocation authorizations.

Enough Harbor Maintenance Tax (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-

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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 was desired by navigation stakeholders. Congress, through WRRDA, 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 the commitment be met.

We urge you to work with the Senate to craft a final FY15 E&W Appropriations bill that meets WRRDA 2014's FY15 harbor maintenance spending target and allocation provisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD
Member of Congress

Rep. Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Rep. William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Rep. Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Rep. Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

Rep. Gene Green
Member of Congress

Rep. Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Rep. Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Rep. Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Rep. Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Rep. David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Rep. Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Rep. Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Rep. Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Rep. Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Rep. Reid Ribble
Member of Congress

Rep. Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Rep. Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Rep. Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Rep. Robert B. Gibbs
Member of Congress

Rep. James A. McDermott
Member of Congress

Rep. Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Rep. John Fleming
Member of Congress

Rep. Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Rep. Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Rep. David G. Reichert
Member of Congress

Rep. Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress

Rep. William J. Posey
Member of Congress

Rep. Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Rep. Steve Stockman
Member of Congress

Rep. Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Rep. Kevin P. Brady
Member of Congress

Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Rep. Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Rep. Louis J. Barletta
Member of Congress

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Rep. Daniel J. Benishek
Member of Congress

Rep. Al Green
Member of Congress

Rep. Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Rep. Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Rep. Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Rep. Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Rep. James B. Renacci
Member of Congress

Rep. Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Rep. Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

Rep. Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Rep. David Joyce
Member of Congress

Rep. Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Rep. Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

Rep. Todd Young
Member of Congress

Rep. Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

Rep. Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Rep. Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER