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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3303

June 1, 2015

Mr. Shaun Donovan, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> St, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Mrs. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary, Army  
Department of Defense  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers  
Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G St., NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Brig. Gen. C. David Turner, Commander  
Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic  
60 Forsythe St., SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8801

Colonel Kevin P. Landers, Commander  
Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington  
69 Darlington Ave.  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Dear Director Donovan, Asst. Sec. Darcy, Lt. Gen. Bostick, Brig. Gen. Turner, and Col. Landers:

Late last month I received the attached letters from Onslow County and Marine Corps Installations East – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune regarding maintenance of New River Inlet. You will note that the second paragraph of the Marine Corps' letter states the following:

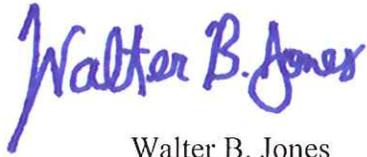
*“ . . . it is vital that the New River Inlet remains passable to support said missions. To accommodate II MEF's operational needs through the inlet, the channel should be dredged to a depth not less than 10 feet and not less than 70 feet in width.”*

I bring this to your attention because after the presidents' budget requests included an average of \$663,000 a year for New River Inlet in fiscal years 2000 to 2011, the president's budget requests for the past five years included no money for the project. As you know, due to the ban on congressional earmarks, North Carolina's senators and I have no ability to add money to the project through the legislative process. As a result, the funding (or lack thereof) specified for a project in the president's budget request is, more often than not, the amount that ultimately gets spent on the project in any given year.

With that in mind, I am seeking your assurance that, in both current and future fiscal years, federal funding will be allocated to New River Inlet at a level sufficient to meet the operational needs of the Marine Corps as stated in the attached letter. It is bad enough that limited federal funding for dredging is negatively affecting commerce on our nation's waterways and the jobs associated with it. It is another thing entirely when it may impact the readiness of our armed forces.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter B. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress