

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development Appropriations
186 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairmen Cochran and Alexander, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The undersigned navigation stakeholders request you provide the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) navigation program funding of \$2.755 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We appreciate your efforts to increase USACE navigation program funding in your annual Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (E&W) Appropriations Acts.

2014 was a landmark year for Congress with passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) and the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (TIPA). WRRDA established targets for incremental increases in Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) appropriations leading to full use of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenues by FY 2025. WRRDA also authorized navigation channel improvements to build America's 21st century maritime infrastructure, streamlined the planning study process and established donor equity. TIPA provided stakeholder-sought increases to the tax providing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) with additional revenues for capital investments in inland navigation infrastructure.

Our \$2.755 billion request is an increase of \$407 million above the FY 2015 Cromnibus appropriated amount. This level of funding will:

- Hit the HMT target in WRRDA for fiscal year 2016 of \$1.25 billion dollars
- Fully use increased IWTF revenues on lock construction and major rehabilitations
- Fund WRRDA-authorized navigation channel improvements projects
- Increase inland navigation operation and maintenance funding to implement Capital Project Business Model risk based navigation lock maintenance
- Enable existing USACE navigation planning studies to achieve WRRDA's three year completion schedule and begin new navigation studies
- Fund HMT donor and energy transfer port work authorized in WRRDA Section 2106

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the nexus between water resources development and economic prosperity. The recent west coast freight movement disruption vividly shows the adverse economic impacts that can occur when efficient movement and handling of maritime cargo is lost.

We must maintain our navigation channels and inland waterways for safe and efficient freight movement to avoid similar impacts nationwide over the long term.

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 \$200 billion annually in Federal, state and local tax revenues. We would like to work with you and members of the Subcommittee and full Committee to include \$2.755 billion for USACE navigation in the FY 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill that will provide a robust navigation construction program, increased navigation channel availability and navigation lock reliability along with timely completion of navigation studies to achieve safe and efficient 21st century freight movement.

Sincerely,

American Association of Port Authorities
Waterways Council, Inc.
Realize America's Maritime Promise
American Great Lakes Ports Association
Big River Coalition
California Marine Affairs and Navigation
Conference
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Gulf Ports Association of the Americas
Lake Carriers Association
North Atlantic Ports Association
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
American Road and Transportation Builders
Association
American Waterways Operators
Associated General Contractors
Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
National Waterways Conference
Archer Daniels Midland
Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New
Orleans (Bar Pilots)
Associated Federal Pilots and Docking Masters
of Louisiana (Federal Pilots)
Associated Terminals, LLC
Cooper/T. Smith Stevedoring
Crescent River Port Pilots Association
Louisiana Maritime Association
Mississippi Valley Trade & Transport Council

New Orleans - Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots
Association (NOBRA Pilots)
Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District
Port of New Orleans
Port of South Louisiana
Raven Energy LLC of Louisiana
St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District
Zen-Noh Grain Corporation
National Association of Maritime Organizations
Connecticut Maritime Association
West Gulf Maritime Association
Columbia River Steamship Operators'
Association
U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents, Inc.
Maritime Association of South Carolina
Maritime Association of the Port of New
York/New Jersey
Jacksonville Marine Transportation Exchange
The Propeller Club of New Orleans
World Trade Center of New Orleans
World Trade Center Mississippi River Alliance
Ports Association of Louisiana
Louisiana Maritime International Chamber of
Commerce
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials
National Corn Growers Association