

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kelly and DeFazio:

We are writing to thank you for introducing the “Investing in America: Unlocking the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act”. This legislation is critically important to the future of our ports and harbors.

Our ports and harbors have long been underfunded. Provisions in the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014* and the *Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016* have led to an increase in the amount of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenue available for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) operations and maintenance (O&M) activities around the country. Even with these provisions, however, the amount of money dedicated to dredging and jetty maintenance continues to fall short of what is needed to keep our ports and harbors competitive.

By taking the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) off budget, your legislation will ensure that HMT revenue collected each year is actually spent at our nation’s ports and harbors, rather than being used for deficit reduction. In turn, this will allow our ports and harbors to continue supporting the activities of Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, while also playing a key role in maintaining and creating jobs, and supporting fishing fleets, marinas and recreational facilities.

By introducing this legislation, you recognize the important contributions that our ports and harbors make to the economic well-being of our local communities, and to the broader U.S. economy. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dighton Harbor, Massachusetts
International Port of Coos Bay, Oregon
Oregon Public Ports Association
Pacific Council of Governments, Washington
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District, Texas
Port of Alsea, Oregon
Port of Arlington, Oregon
Port of Astoria, Oregon
Port of Bandon, Oregon
Port of Brookings Harbor, Oregon
Port of Cascade Locks, Oregon

Port of Chinook, Washington
Columbia River Steamship Operator's Association
Port of Coquille River, Oregon
Port of Depoe Bay, Oregon
Port of Garibaldi, Oregon
Port of Gold Beach, Oregon
Port of Hood River, Oregon
Port of Ilwaco, Washington
Port of Morrow, Oregon
Port of Nehalem, Oregon
Port of Newport, Oregon
Port of Port Orford, Oregon
Port of Portland, Oregon
Rex McKinsey, Provincetown, Massachusetts
Port of Siuslaw, Oregon
Port of St. Helens, Oregon
Port of The Dalles, Oregon
Port of Tillamook Bay, Oregon
Port of Toledo, Oregon
Port of Umpqua, Oregon
Port of Willapa Harbor, Washington
Wellfleet Harbor, Massachusetts