

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
U.S. House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
U.S. Senate Environment and
Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shuster and Chairman Boxer:

Small ports and harbors in our Congressional districts have long been underfunded, and in recent years, most of these ports and harbors have been “zeroed out” in the Administration’s budget request to Congress. That is why we are writing to support a provision in H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, that will significantly improve the outlook for small ports and harbors going forward.


Section 202 of H.R.3080 sets aside ten percent of expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund in fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for dredging and jetty maintenance at “emerging harbors.” H.R.3080 defines emerging harbors as ports and harbors that transit less than 1,000,000 tons of commerce annually. Not only do we support this set-aside, we support making the set-aside for emerging harbors permanent.

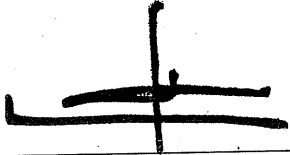
Predictable funding is essential to keeping our ports open and safe, and to ensuring coastal and inland waterway communities are able to thrive. Without a set-aside, many of our nation’s small ports and harbors will silt in and become unusable long before funding is made available. The set-aside will ensure that the Corps fulfills its obligation to dredge, rebuild, and maintain ports and harbors both big and small.

The ports and harbors in our districts support the activities of Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, and are home to fishing fleets, marinas and recreational facilities. Each year Congress does not appropriate adequate funding for small ports and harbors, our coastal and inland waterway communities suffer. We encourage you to protect these ports and harbors by including the set-aside for emerging ports in the final legislation.

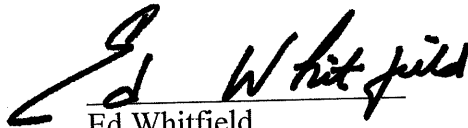
Sincerely,


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



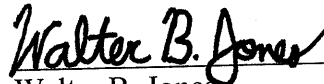
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



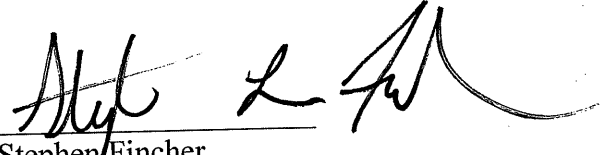
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



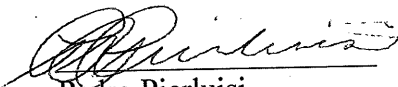
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



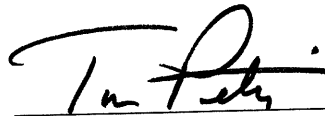
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



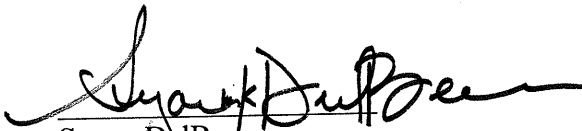
Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



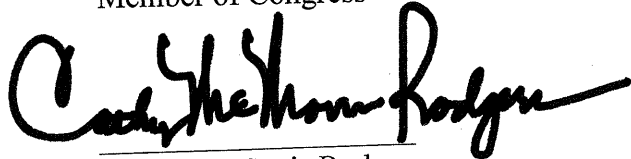
Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress



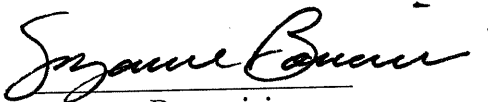
Thomas Petri
Member of Congress



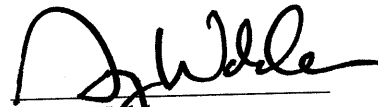
Suzan DelBerte
Member of Congress



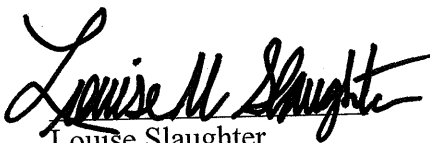
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



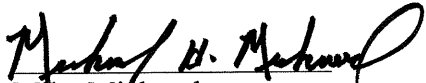
Don Young
Member of Congress




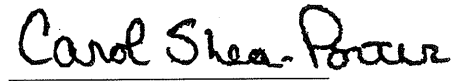
Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

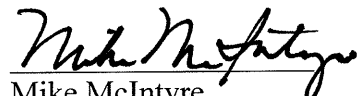



Chris Collins
Member of Congress

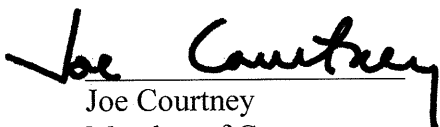

Mike Michaud
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress

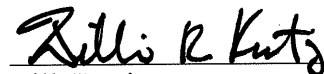

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Tom Reed
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Bill Keating
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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