

July 15, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Water Resources Development Act of 2020

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) supports passage of H.R. 7575, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 through the House of Representatives. On behalf of our 78 United States member ports, AAPA appreciates that this legislation expands the budget cap adjustment to all the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) which would unlock approximately \$10 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. We are pleased to see that the legislation recognizes the needs of donor ports, emerging harbors and Great Lakes navigation projects and look forward to working with you prior to enactment on these provisions.

The legislation also authorizes new navigation channel improvement studies as well as authorizing projects to proceed to construction. The legislation continues to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of Corps study efforts and product delivery. These efforts are essential for our Nation's future economic growth as well as providing family supporting jobs.

I thank you for your work on these issues and others related to maritime infrastructure, both included in this bill and otherwise. Our Association looks forward to working with you, your Committee staff, and the rest of Congress on passage of this legislation.

Respectfully,



Christopher J. Connor
President and CEO