



**AMERICAN  
GREAT LAKES PORTS  
ASSOCIATION**

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
H-222 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

The American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) represents the interests of commercial ports and port users on the United States side of the Great Lakes. Our regional maritime industry supports more than 147,000 American jobs in the eight Great Lakes states and generates more than \$25 billion in economic activity each year.

We are writing to share our strong support for enactment of the Water Resource Development Act before the end of the 116th Congress. This critical legislation ensures continued development of navigation infrastructure in our region and throughout the United States. We applaud the efforts of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee who have crafted a final conference agreement that can be broadly supported.

Our ports have been particularly focused on reforms to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), which was created by Congress in 1986 but has failed to fully serve its intended purpose. HMTF reforms will ensure full use of the trust fund balance and equitable distribution of trust fund resources for the improvement of ports throughout the United States. This is particularly important in the Great Lakes region, which suffers from a \$550 million backlog of Corps of Engineers' maintenance work.

700 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005 Tel: 202-625-2102

[WWW.GREATLAKESPORTS.ORG](http://WWW.GREATLAKESPORTS.ORG)

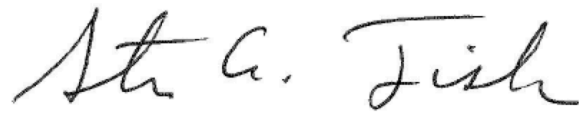
December 4, 2020

Page 2

While there is limited time remaining before the end of the Congress, we urge you to prioritize enactment of this critical water resource legislation.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve A. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven A. Fisher  
Executive Director

cc:

The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee