



December 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Whip Clyburn, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) to request quick action on the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020). Provisions in WRDA 2020 will ensure that essential navigation and maritime infrastructure is maintained along the Columbia River and Oregon Coast, and throughout the nation. It is imperative that the House and Senate take up and pass this important legislation before the end of the 116th Congress

WRDA 2020 is especially important in light of the economic and health care crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. America's ports are hurting, especially smaller ports located in rural areas. In each of the communities where Oregon's 23 public ports are located, port activities provide an important employment base and are often the primary drivers of economic activity. They also rely on annual funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging and jetty maintenance activities to remain viable. If the type of funding provided by WRDA 2020 is not made available, these ports, already hit hard by the effects of COVID-19, may not survive, and the communities where these ports are located will suffer.

This is also a public safety issue. Oregon's ports are heavily impacted by severe Pacific storm fronts and strong fluvial runoff that inundate federal navigation channels with sediment and damage jetty infrastructure, creating dangerous situations for commercial fishermen and other mariners. Consequently, Oregon ports require ongoing dredging and jetty maintenance to keep mariners out of harm's way and ensure the U.S. Coast Guard is able to carry out search and rescue missions.



Addressing the transportation challenges our country faces today requires smart infrastructure policies that will provide the funding needed to maintain and modernize our maritime infrastructure. To that end, I hope you will take quick action on WRDA 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Landauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Landauer
Executive Director

copy: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congressman Kurt Schrader
Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
Congressman Greg Walden