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Executive Director

December 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As we approach the end of an exceptionally challenging year, I write to thank you for your continued leadership and urge you to conclude this Congress with the passage of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020).

We have worked closely with Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves, their staff, the American Association of Port Authorities, and numerous maritime stakeholders to develop the policies proposed in WRDA 2020 that provide for equitable distribution of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) funding and expand the allowable uses of those funds.

As the nation's busiest container port, handling cargo to and from every congressional district in the country, our port generates over \$200 million in HMT annually, yet historically, we have received less than 1.5% of that funding in return. WRDA 2020 addresses this inequity by recognizing HMT donor ports and accommodating our infrastructure maintenance needs. Specifically, WRDA 2020 provides guaranteed money and expanded uses that allow ports like the Port of Los Angeles to address critical maintenance needs, including a backlog of \$200 million in concrete and corrosion repairs on the decks, beams, and mooring bits. The changes will also allow us, for the first time, to use HMT funding to perform maintenance to fortify our facility against seismic activity.

Passage of WRDA 2020 represents both a strategic investment in our long-term competitiveness and a much-needed stimulus to our local economy. I urge you to move this important legislation this year and adopt it swiftly.

Sincerely,

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director
Port of Los Angeles