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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2011

Mr. Bill Daley  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Daley:

To reiterate our recent conversation regarding the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project, I write today to urge the Administration to direct resources to this initiative. Investing in this project presents the Administration with a concrete opportunity to retain and create jobs in a region that has suffered greatly in the economic downturn.

This project calls for the deepening of the channel from forty to forty-five feet in order to accommodate larger vessels which in turn will make maritime transportation more efficient while reducing shipping costs. In addition, this project will make the channel safer and more reliable while increasing its environmental sustainability. Most importantly, it will also spur significant economic activity in the region whose unemployment numbers remain high.

Once the channel is deepened, I have been informed that there will be an increase of 2.5 million tons of cargo to the Port of Philadelphia, creating more than 1,300 jobs with the potential for tens of thousands more. In addition, this initiative will create thousands of short-term construction jobs and in turn aid an industry that has suffered significantly in this economic climate.

I am informed that operations at the Port of Philadelphia currently support 8,100 direct jobs and over 30,000 indirect jobs. If this project does not go forward, jobs will assuredly be lost in the Philadelphia region because shippers will inevitably go to ports that can accommodate larger vessels, particularly once the expansion of the Panama Canal is complete.

I value your support on helping to move this project forward. Specifically, I am calling on the Administration to include this project in the Corps' fiscal 2012 work plan which, as you know, will be developed after the appropriations bill funding the Corps for fiscal 2012 is enacted into law. I am also urging the Administration to include substantial funding for this project in the President's fiscal 2013 budget due out in February of next year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am fully confident that this project will help the Administration play a major role in revitalizing the region's economy.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator