

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Director Donovan and Assistant Secretary Darcy:

This letter is to express our strong support for full funding in the FY17 budget for the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project as it nears completion. This project has received over \$208 million in federal funding and \$94 million in local funding to date. The project has proceeded in an environmentally sound and economically judicious manner and is now at a juncture where necessary final resources are required to deepen the entirety of the channel to 45' if we are to meet the targeted completion date of 2017.

The next phase of work, the removal of rock from the area of Marcus Hook, is the most challenging and is currently underway. Full funding in FY17 will allow the completion of the project in deepening Upper Reach B and Upper Reach E.

A commitment in the FY17 budget will ensure that the necessary dredging continues. This will support existing jobs along the Delaware River, attract new businesses to the region, and allow existing companies currently dependent on Delaware River ports to expand.

It is notable that within the next few years, all container lines calling on Delaware River ports will require a minimum 42-foot draft. Completion of the Main Channel Deepening Project will meet this demand and allow goods to flow in a more efficient and certainly safer manner. Further, completion of this project will allow the Delaware River regional port community to take full advantage of expected opportunities due to the expansion of the Panama Canal. And the resurgence of the area's natural gas industry and expected associated jobs requires no less than full support in the form of a completed 45-foot channel depth.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this matter. Questions or need of additional information should be directed to Vincent Sarubbi of Rep. Norcross' office (202-225-6501) or Vincent.Sarubbi@mail.house.gov or Matthew Satterley of Rep. LoBiondo's office at Matthew.Satterley@mail.house.gov (202-225-6572).

Sincerely,



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress