

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2016

The Honorable Jo Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

I request that, as you develop the fiscal year 2016 work plan for the Army Civil Works program, you include critical operation and maintenance funding for nine small port projects in the State of Oregon: the Siuslaw River project (Port of Siuslaw), the Umpqua River project (Port of Umpqua), the Coquille River project (Port of Bandon), the Rogue River project (Port of Gold Beach), the Chetco River project (Port of Brookings Harbor), Tillamook Bay and Harbor project (Port of Garibaldi), the Port Orford project, the Yaquina River project (Port of Toledo), and the Depoe Bay project.

On December 18, 2015, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. 114-113) into law. This bill included approximately \$149 million for the Corps to carry out operation and maintenance dredging of small commercial harbors, nationwide. Division D of the Explanatory Statement to accompany this bill identified \$48 million in additional, but unallocated, funding reserved for work at small, remote, or subsistence navigation projects. I request that you allocate a portion of this \$48 million for these nine Oregon ports.

As you know, funding for the Ports of Siuslaw, Umpqua, Bandon, Gold Beach, Brookings Harbor, and Depoe Bay was included in the fiscal year 2015 workplan; however, despite a continuing need for maintenance work at these facilities, no funding was included in the fiscal year 2016 President's Budget for these projects. The Ports of Garibaldi, Port Orford, and Toledo received no funding in the fiscal year 2015 workplan, but significant needs for dredging and jetty repair have been identified for fiscal year 2016. Based on conversations with the Portland District, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, and local ports, I have been informed of additional Corps' capability for these projects in fiscal year 2016, in the following amounts:

Project Name	Additional FY 2016 Capability
Siuslaw River (Port of Siuslaw)	\$921,000
Umpqua River (Port of Umpqua)	\$942,000
Coquille River (Port of Bandon)	\$838,000
Rogue River (Port of Gold Beach)	\$1,054,000
Chetco River (Port of Brookings Harbor)	\$806,000
Tillamook Bay and Harbor (Port of Garibaldi)	\$1,492,000
Port of Port Orford	\$2,130,000
Yaquina River (Port of Toledo)	\$3,757,000
Depoe Bay	\$252,000

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Small ports and harbors are some of our nation's most valuable assets and critical to maintaining and creating jobs. Commercial fishing and recreational boating at these small ports is critically important to the economic health of Oregon coastal communities and to our state, region and nation. That's why it is so important that funding to dredge these ports is included in the 2016 work plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



JEFF MERKLEY
United States Senator



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress