



January 30, 2015

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD  
Governor

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

I am writing to request that you use funds allocated by Congress for small port dredging to fund dredging for those ports in Oregon that were not included in the President's FY 2015 budget. This budget seriously short-changed the vast majority of Oregon's ports, and jeopardizes my state's coastal economy and the safe navigability of these ports.

Oregon's 23 ports support thousands of family-wage jobs and are a key to our economy and quality of life. In fact, one out of six Oregon jobs is directly or indirectly tied to cargo, recreation, industrial, commercial, or other activities at Oregon's ports. These jobs contribute over \$4.5 billion in wages to the states' economy. The ports also support tourism, recreation, and sport and commercial fishing that are key to regional economies. Maintaining infrastructure and dredging at coastal ports are necessary for these local economies to exist.

Despite the economic impact of Oregon's coastal ports, they have long been underfunded, and for the past several years, most of these ports and harbors have been "zeroed out" in the Administration's budget request to Congress. This is why Oregon's Congressional delegation fought to have the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) include a provision which specifies that ten percent of annual Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenue be used for dredging and jetty maintenance at "emerging harbors," which are defined as ports and harbors that transit less than 1,000,000 tons of commerce annually.

I encourage you to use a portion of the \$329,500,000 (including \$42,500,000 for small ports) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities at Corps-authorized projects that are not included in the Administration's request.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request to save jobs in rural Oregon communities.

Sincerely,



John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Governor

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