



Corporate Office
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Fort Mill, SC 29715
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August 15, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation Committee
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Chairman Shuster and Chairman Inhofe:

I write to urge September action on the 2016 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) pending in both the House and Senate.

This bill is a priority to Domtar as we have manufacturing facilities across North America, including Nekoosa and Rothschild, Wisconsin; DuBois and Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania; Owensboro and Hawesville, Kentucky; plus nine additional states, including South Carolina. Both House and Senate versions of the bill include a critical construction authorization to complete dredging the Port of Charleston to a 52-foot depth, needed to accommodate larger, neo-Panamax container ships. Without the authorization, this project – currently under budget and ahead of schedule – could quickly fall behind schedule, placing a huge burden on regional, national and even global commerce. With this authorization, the Port will continue to be the Army Corps of Engineer's model example for the new SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk Informed, Timely) planning process, as well as become the deepest port on the East coast.

I congratulate Chairman Inhofe and Chairman Shuster on timely and efficient mark ups of WRDA, but without final action on the bill, your work will be for naught. The Port of Charleston's future is hanging in the balance awaiting congressional action.

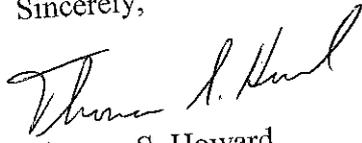
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The Port of Charleston is the prime economic development engine for our state and the entire region. In South Carolina alone, it facilitates nearly 200,000 jobs and generates an estimated \$53 billion in annual economic activity. Our nation cannot afford congressional inaction on WRDA – global commerce could be disrupted, jobs could be lost and undoubtedly the nation's Gross Domestic Product will suffer.

Domtar depends on the Port of Charleston to ship product from our facilities in the Southeast to customers around the globe. Occasionally, we select Charleston to ship product from Domtar facilities across our North American footprint, giving the Port outsized influence to our Company.

Please make WRDA a priority for September; we cannot afford to wait for an uncertain lame duck session to address this important bill.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Howard
Vice President, Government Relations