



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

May 9, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, House Transportation
and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster,

On behalf of the City and Port of Los Angeles, thank you for your leadership on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). I am especially grateful to you for your diligence and commitment to resolving long-standing issues with respect to the equitable allocation of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) funds.

A large share of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is paid at the Port of Los Angeles each year; however, very little of this funding returns to our port. According to the report by the Congressional Research Service, the Port of Los Angeles generates roughly 14% of all Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues, and receives none of these funds in return. Los Angeles' customers have a reasonable expectation that the taxes they pay will return to maintain the port they use.

Thanks to your efforts, WRRDA will be the most significant effort to address this problem to date. Specifically, your support for expanded use of HMT dollars for maintenance berth dredging and associated sediment disposal will allow HMT donors like the Port of Los Angeles to receive more funding in return.

Thank you, and as always, I stand ready to assist you to see that this important legislation passes Congress.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

*LA loves Bill Shuster!
Thanks for all your and your staff's help!*