

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 2051

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

America's ports write to urge swift consideration and passage of the final Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA) through your respective chambers.

Moving the people, energy, and goods of a vibrant economy would not be possible without consistent passage of WRDA. Chairmen Carper and Graves and Ranking Members Capito and Larsen deserve tremendous credit for their collaborative and bipartisan approach that has resulted in this final bill text. This legislation will make the necessary investments in our nation's infrastructure and keep commerce flowing through our federal navigation channels.

WRDA is critically important to continue facilitating the robust economic growth of the port and maritime industry. According to the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) 2024 Port and Maritime Industry Economic Contribution Report, the industry's impact on the U.S. economy totals nearly \$2.9 trillion to the Gross Domestic Product and supports one out of every eight domestic jobs. Further, the maritime industry, along with its suppliers, port users, and associated consumer spending supports almost 22 million jobs.

We are especially grateful for the changes to increase construction and maintenance depth thresholds from 50 to 55 feet at which the Army Corps of Engineers funds dredging projects. For America's ports, this is the most impactful policy in WRDA. These changes will allow our nation's ports to accommodate the ever-larger vessels operated by the global fleet. Deeper harbor dredging is necessary for the nation's economy and the global competitiveness of America's ports. Further, WRDA includes many other provisions of local, regional, and national importance to U.S. ports.

We look forward to working closely with our port champions in Congress to get this bill signed into law by the President and continuing the strong tradition of authorizing WRDA on a regular two-year cycle.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Cary Davis**  
President & CEO  
American Association of Port Authorities

**Mr. Steve Fisher**  
Executive Director  
American Great Lakes Ports Association

**Mr. Dean Haen**  
Port Director  
Brown County Port & Resource Recovery

**Mr. William Dietrich**  
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Brownsville Navigation District - Port of  
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Calhoun Port Authority

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Port Director  
Don Young Port of Alaska

**Ms. Deborah DeLuca**  
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**Mr. Griffith V. Lynch**  
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Georgia Ports Authority

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Maine Port Authority

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Maryland Port Administration

**Mrs. Lauren Gleason**  
Port Director  
Massachusetts Port Authority

**Mr. Victor Martinez**  
Port Director  
Matagorda County Navigation District #1 -  
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Port Authority of Guam

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Port Everglades

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Port Milwaukee

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Port of Beaumont

**Mr. William D. Friedman**  
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**Mr. Sean Clark**  
Executive Director  
Port of Columbia County

**Mr. Joseph A. Riccio**  
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Port of Davisville/Quonset Development  
Corp

**Ms. Angela Harris**  
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Port of Edmonds

**Mrs. Lisa Lefeber**  
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Port of Everett

**Mr. Rodger Rees**  
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Port of Galveston

**Mr. Leonard Barnes**  
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**Mr. Jay G. Hardman, P.E.**  
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**Mr. Walker Smith**  
Port Director  
Port of Harlingen Authority

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Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor District

**Mr. Mark Wilson**

Executive Director  
Port of Kalama

**Mr. Mario Cordero, J.D.**

Chief Executive Officer  
Port of Long Beach

**Mr. Dan Stahl**

Chief Executive Officer  
Port of Longview

**Mr. Eugene D. Seroka**

Executive Director  
Port of Los Angeles

**Capt. Paul C. LaMarre, III**

Port Director  
Port of Monroe

**Mr. Gordon Carr**

Executive Director  
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**Ms. Beth Ann Branch**

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**Mr. John Wolfe**

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The Northwest Seaport Alliance

**Ms. Barbara Melvin**

President & CEO  
South Carolina Ports Authority

CC:

U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Tom Carper

U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito

U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Sam Graves

U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rick Larsen