



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

John P. LaRue
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
Environment
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources &
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Gibbs, and Ranking Members Rahall and Bishop:

I want to thank you for your bipartisan introduction of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRDDA), H.R. 3080. Maintaining our nation's federal channels to ensure the U.S. continues to have a world class marine transportation system are of critical importance to Port Corpus Christi and our industry partners.

The Port is particularly interested in WRDDA's program reforms and streamlining process to expedite studies and construction more quickly, which will help advance our Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project. Currently, the Port is finalizing an agreement with the USACE to privately fund the deepening of a channel section. This process was started in 2011 but has been delayed by USACE's review of an Assumption of Maintenance agreement, which has prevented any work from being done. WRDDA not only authorizes the Port to fund this project privately, it clarifies federal responsibility for channel maintenance and includes provisions to ensure USACE reviews the proposal in a timely manner.

In addition, Port Corpus Christi supports the full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust fund to be used for its intended purpose—maintenance dredging of our nation's ports.

I appreciate your efforts to ensure WRDDA bills return to a two year authorization cycle and that the USACE receives adequate funding to accomplish their mission. I look forward to working with your committee to address WRDDA issues as the legislative process advances. Please feel free to call me at 361-885-6189 if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

John P. LaRue
Executive Director

