

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

I am writing to respectfully request that the following legislative proposals and projects be included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2010. I appreciate consideration of the following projects:

- Project 111-NY-28th-002: Sec. 219 request to rehab City's aging water supply infrastructure, install reservoir covers and upgraded treatment systems to protect reservoirs.
- Project 111-NY-28th-001: Creates fund (to be appropriated) to dredge, maintain, conduct structural repairs, etc. for shallow draft recreation harbors on Lake Ontario in NY.

Enclosed you will find two Congressional Earmark Certification forms with original signatures for each project that I have requested, a letter of support from the local project sponsor for Project 111-NY-28th-002, two letters in support of Project 111-NY-28th-001 (one letter from Orleans County and one letter from the Town of Wilson), and a copy of the receipts for each project.

Additionally, I am enclosing a description of Project 111-NY-28th-002 that is more detailed than space allowed in the electronic submission form, and draft legislative language for Project 111-NY-28th-001 supplied to my office by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Finally, I ask that as you write this year's WRDA legislation, you address issues with the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), which was created to collect fees in order to pay for the maintenance and operation costs of Federal harbors and ports. Over half of these important ports are not maintained to their authorized dimensions. This results in less efficient and more polluting transport, as well as an increased risk of vessel grounding and collisions.

The HMTF is funded through the collection of the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT), charged against the value of imports and domestic cargo arriving at Federally-maintained U.S. ports. These funds are to be used for maintenance dredging, dredged material disposal areas, jetties, and breakwaters. Every year, hundreds of millions of dollars are collected into the HMTF but never spent. In fact, there is currently at least \$4.7 billion in the HMTF. Accordingly, I urge the Committee to require that expenditures from the HMTF in the future equal the amount of money received into the HMTF, in order to address the considerable backlog of harbor maintenance work throughout the country.

If I can provide you with any more information, please feel free to contact my staffer, Adam Berg, at 202-225-3615.

Enclosures

Louise Slaughter