

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Janice Hahn
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o [Justin A. Vogt](#)

The Honorable Bill Huizenga
United States House of Representatives
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o [Nathan Bult](#)

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
c/o [Luke Strimer](#)

Dear Representatives Hahn, Huizenga and Ranking Member DeFazio:

We are writing in support of both of your amendments to the Energy & Water Appropriations bill when they reach the House floor in the next day or so. Last year, Congress sent a strong message by passing in an overwhelming, bi-partisan manner the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) which provides much needed infrastructure improvements for ports and harbors that will help our nation continue to be competitive in international trade. A key component of that bill was a hard fought agreement reforming the spending of the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) to provide full use of the tax for its intended purpose and to address tax fairness and donor equity issues.

Last year, the House also passed Representatives Hahn's and Huizenga's amendment to hit the HMT spending targets included in WRRDA. It will take 10 years of gradual spending increases to achieve WRRDA's goal of fully spending each year the taxes paid for harbor maintenance. WRRDA also included some changes in how the Corps of Engineers would allocate HMT spending in order to address concerns over tax fairness. The two amendments below, which AAPA strongly supports, would achieve the goals of WRRDA, and we strongly urge the House of Representatives to pass both amendments.

The [Huizenga/Hahn amendment](#) would add \$36.3 million to the Corps of Engineers' Operation and Maintenance (O&M) account for harbor maintenance. The amendment will provide vitally needed funding to improve the maintenance of federal navigation channels on all coasts and the Great Lakes, enhancing the competitiveness of U.S. exports and American manufacturers. The additional \$36.3 million would Hit the HMT Target funding levels provided for in the strongly bipartisan Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA 2014) enacted last year.

The [DeFazio amendment](#) would ensure that expenditures from the Corps' O&M account comply with sections 2101 and 2102 of WRRDA 2014. These two sections established the targets for HMT funding levels, as well as an allocation formula among competing uses of the fund and help address tax fairness and donor equity issues.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt J. Nagle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kurt J. Nagle
President and CEO