

Will aid struggling coastal communities

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WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured critical funding for dredging and maintenance at several ports along the south coast of Oregon.

The funding was approved as part of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010, which passed out of subcommittee today.

“Navigable channels are the economic lifeline of our small coastal communities, and the key to safe navigation on the Oregon coast,” DeFazio said. “This funding is critical to these coastal communities and the fishing and recreational industries.”

Without regular removal of sand and silt through dredging, the shallow channels which make up the entrances to ports swiftly deteriorate and become dangerous, even impossible, to navigate.

Impassable channels leave coastal communities without the commercial shipping, fishing, recreational boating and even Coast Guard operations that their economic livelihoods depend upon.

Congressman DeFazio was able to secure the following funding for ports in Southern Oregon:

- Port of Bandon will receive \$578,000
- Port of Brookings Harbor will receive \$909,000
- Port of Coos Bay will receive \$5,091,000
- Port of Gold Beach will receive \$978,000
- Port of Port Orford will receive \$38,000
- Port of Siuslaw will receive \$817,000
- Port of Umpqua will receive \$1,174,000

The Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010 must now be approved by the full House Appropriations Committee.