

Congress of the United States

December 22, 2020

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

We are writing to request that you include critical operations and maintenance funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects in the State of Oregon in the fiscal year 2021 (FY2021) work plan for the Corps' Civil Works program.

The fiscal year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which includes the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides considerable funding for the Corps, including additional funding for the Corps to carry out projects that did not receive sufficient funding in the President's FY2021 budget request, or that were left out of the budget altogether. In Oregon, this additional funding has played a critical role in past years in ensuring public safety and supporting economic development activities in our state. The needs in Oregon this year are no different.

Our harbors along the Oregon coast can be particularly challenging due to unpredictable weather, the increasing intensity of storms, and especially dangerous wave conditions at our entrance channels. Maintenance dredging and jetty repairs are needed to ensure our ports can serve their most critical purposes as economic engines for coastal communities and harbors of refuge for mariners of both commercial and recreational vessels. The President's FY21 budget request responsibly recognized the critical dredging needs of most of Oregon's coastal harbors but has neglected to address long-standing repairs at jetties in key commercial ports. Jetty recession poses an enormous and critical risk to the functionality of Oregon's harbors and the pent-up need of deferred maintenance is clearly conveyed in the Portland District's additional FY21 capabilities.

In addition to those projects funded in the President's FY21 budget, the following Corps projects in Oregon require additional funding to ensure safe, efficient movement of people and goods. For these reasons, we urge you to support the following projects, and request that your final FY2021 workplan reflect the following funding requests:

Project Name	FY2021 President's Budget	Additional FY2021 Capability	Total FY2021 Request
Coos Bay (Port of Coos Bay) North Jetty Head Major Maintenance	\$0	\$34,650,000	\$34,650,000
Coos Bay (Port of Coos Bay) North Jetty Root and Trunk Major Maintenance	\$0	\$31,250,000	\$31,250,000
Depoe Bay Maintenance Dredging	\$51,000	\$34,000	\$85,000
Tillamook Bay and Bar South Jetty Head Repair Construction Contract	\$0	\$44,703,000	\$44,703,000
Tillamook Bay and Bar South Jetty Trunk Repair and Construction Contract	\$0	\$23,603,000	\$23,603,000
Tillamook Bay and Bar North Jetty Root Repair Contract	\$0	\$11,945,000	\$11,945,000

Furthermore, included in the FY21 Consolidated Appropriations Act was the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020) which provides substantial additional funding for the Corps to fulfill its operations and maintenance responsibilities at ports and harbors across the nation. Congress specifically called on the Corps to restore harbors to their authorized depths and widths and repair jetties to their authorized condition as well. WRDA 2020 further allowed expanded uses at emerging harbors to include marina dredging, an area of significant need in the communities we serve. With these additional authorities and expectations, Congress increased by 50% the amount of Work Plan funding that must be dedicated to supporting emerging harbors.

With its increased resources and clear congressional direction, we expect that the Corps in advising the FY2022 President's Budget, drafting the FY2022 Capabilities Report, and finalizing the FY2022 Work Plan will reflect these priorities with corresponding investments in further operations and maintenance projects at Oregon's coastal ports and harbors. The Corps should begin preparing for the increased workload immediately and consult with the communities it serves about how best to meet those needs. We stand ready to assist and encourage the Corps to fulfill this mission.

Oregon's ports are the lynchpin for economic activity in many of the state's rural areas. These ports are hubs for international trade, recreation, and commercial fishing, and contribute to the local, regional and national economies. We thank you for your consideration of these projects, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



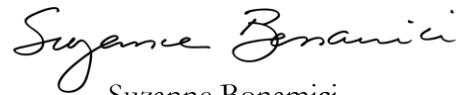
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress