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April 19, 2018

Mr. R. D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Mr. James:

As you work to develop the 2018 work plan for the Army Civil Works program, I ask that you include critical operation and maintenance funding for dredging of harbors in Southwest Michigan, essential to jobs and economic activity up-and-down the region.

Southwest Michigan's recreational harbors are the lifeblood of the coastal communities they serve, enhancing regional and local economic development and supporting local job growth. As a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, Congress has allocated additional funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to complete harbor maintenance that was not originally included in the Administration's budget request. As such, I ask that you include the following recreational harbors in your 2018 work plan:

- Saugatuck Harbor
- South Haven Harbor
- New Buffalo Harbor

Currently, all three of these harbors require maintenance dredging that is necessary for maritime safety and to support the local economies. The last time the Corps completed maintenance dredging for all three of these harbors was in 2013 to remove shoaling that occurred in the fall of 2012 due to Hurricane Sandy. However, Saugatuck Harbor requires dredging on a 3 to 4 year cycle, South Haven Harbor requires dredging on a 2 to 4 year cycle, and New Buffalo Harbor requires dredging on a 1 to 2 year cycle. These operations and maintenance projects are past due, and need to be prioritized to ensure the region does not suffer the consequences, including loss of jobs and loss of recreational, commercial, and charter fishing for thousands of people.


Specifically, the New Buffalo Harbor desperately needs the dredged material to be placed along the beach as beach nourishment due to severe erosion of the shoreline. The erosion is not only causing destruction to private property, but is also threatening the water supply for the City of

New Buffalo due to its pump house located in the area being eroded. That is why it is so important that funding for these projects is included in the 2018 work plan.

I appreciate the Corps realizing the St. Joseph Harbor's importance as a regionally significant commercial receiving port on the Great Lakes and as a result including robust funding for its dredging in Fiscal Years 2017, 2018, and 2019. This harbor is critical for commodities such as limestone, sand, gravel, armor stone, cement, slag, salt, and petroleum products that provide good-paying local jobs for families in Southwest Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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FRED UPTON  
Member of Congress

