

July 1, 2020

Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

We write to thank you for the committee's continued efforts to advance the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 (AWIA 2020) in a bipartisan fashion. The industries we represent are committed to ensuring that the transport of U.S. goods and commodities by water is done in a safe and efficient manner that ensures future economic growth for industry and shoreline communities alike.

We were pleased to see that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act included language to ensure funds collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) are used for their intended purpose—harbor maintenance. As you turn your attention to AWIA and the application of the HMTF, we strongly urge you to resist efforts to divert any of these essential funds from the expressed purposes of, in many cases, long overdue harbor maintenance that support safe and efficient navigation across the U.S. for a variety of vessel sizes and types.

As you know, these funds ensure that ports and channels are maintained at their full depth and width to accommodate a variety of commerce and waterway traffic. Further, as economic needs continue to develop and change as it relates to port infrastructure and vessel accommodation, ensuring that vessels are able to safely and efficiently access these waterways and port facilities is crucial.

Ensuring that the HMTF is used for its intended purpose will support our industries' ability to better meet the economic demands of a post-COVID-19 world. We thank you in advance for your work to maintain the strength of the HMTF and stand ready to assist the committee moving forward.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Dredging Contractors of America  
National Mining Association  
Industrial Minerals Associations – North America  
International Liquids Terminal Association  
U.S Chamber of Commerce