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Congress of the United States
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AND FORESTRY

January 7, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Director Burwell and Assistant Secretary Darcy:

I am writing regarding the City of Kenmore's Navigation Channel, located in King County, Washington. In light of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (H.J. Res 59) that was signed into law on December 26, 2013, I respectfully renew my request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in working with the Office of Management and Budget, include \$250,000 for the Kenmore Navigation Channel in Operation and Maintenance funding as part of the FY 2015 budget. This funding is necessary to complete the environmental assessment and full characterization sediment analysis, which are both required before maintenance dredging can proceed.

Maintenance dredging of the Channel has not been completed since 1997, and many companies rely on the Channel to ship their products by barge. Due to the accumulation of sediment in the channel, some companies must short-load their barges in order to reduce the barge draft, vastly increasing the number of additional barge trips. This increases costs for fuel, labor, and equipment, and also increases the number of heavy truckloads transporting the materials, which in turn exacerbates air pollution, energy consumption, and can accelerate road deterioration.

I appreciate Secretary Darcy's October 3, 2013 letter on this matter. Although I have shared with the City your recommendation that Kenmore work with the Corps to explore the potential to accept contributed funds for this work, this unfortunately will not allow the project to be completed on the needed time frame. Moreover, I hope you will consider the fact that Kenmore, with a population of just 21,000, has already invested over \$100,000 of its own limited resources to fund a screening level sediment sampling and analysis of the materials to be dredged. Kenmore has already proven itself to be an able and willing partner with the Corps. Further, the most recent survey, conducted July 2013 by the Corps on the Channel conditions, clearly shows that Channel depths are insufficient, and that the intended use of the Channel has redistributed sediment that is causing severe disruption to water-dependent businesses.

I understand the current fiscal constraints facing the Corps. However, I believe it is important to the nation that small harbors such as Kenmore's be maintained on a disciplined schedule given their importance to regional economies and local businesses. Again, I respectfully request that the Corps fund this project as part of the Operation and Maintenance funding in the FY 2015 budget.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Barasky in my Washington D.C. office at Ben.Barasky@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-6311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzan DelBene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "DelBene".

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress