

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Wilmington Harbor Navigation Improvement Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the North Carolina State Ports Authority located at 2202 Burnett Boulevard Wilmington, NC 28401. The funding would be used to enhance its navigational channel to allow larger, deep-draft container ships to access the Port of Wilmington.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, contingent on the completion of environmental compliance activities and an updated economic analysis. To begin engineering and design, and subsequently, construction, the contingent activities must be completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Further, expanding our port capacity helps mitigate the impacts of the national Supply Chain Crisis and has an economic impact that reverberates across the country.

North Carolina is a critical East Coast freight gateway. If carriers are unable to enter the port, they will choose less efficient ports, ultimately causing longer truck hauls and increased transportation costs to move cargo in and out of the Carolinas. The harbor enhancement will also help attract more import and export business. Every Ultra-Panamax container service arriving from the Far East has a direct impact of \$3.7 billion. Additionally, North Carolina Ports support over 87,000 jobs across the state and contributes over roughly \$1 billion in economic output.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 403 (a)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



David Rouzer
Member of Congress