

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2014

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

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Darcy and Director Burwell:

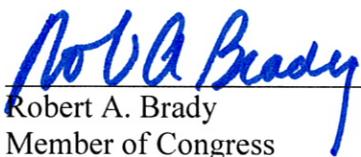
We are writing to urge you to include in the Army Corps of Engineers' FY 2015 Budget Request the maximum amount of funding available to support continued progress toward completion of the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project. This project is very important to the continued prosperity of the Delaware River regional economy, which includes communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, and including adequate funding in the Corps' Budget Request will help ensure that the project is finished by its target completion date in 2017.

As you know, the purpose of this project, which has received federal funding since 1999, is to deepen the existing Delaware River navigation channel from 40 to 45 feet from the mouth of Delaware Bay up to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Camden, New Jersey. The deeper channel will allow more cargo container ships and petroleum and natural gas shipments to reach ports along the river more efficiently, which the Corps estimates will result in more than \$13 million in additional economic activity annually. We are advised that the expansion of the Panama Canal in 2015 is expected to increase greatly shipping traffic along the U.S. East Coast, one of the major reasons that the Philadelphia port and many other East Coast ports are deepening their channels. This increased cargo traffic will bring vessels that are larger, with deeper drafts, to our region, increasing efficiency and lowering costs.

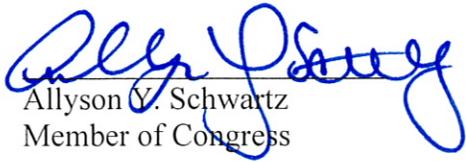
We understand that the President requested \$20 million for the Delaware River Main Channel Deeping Project for FY 2014 and that due to ongoing budget negotiations it is not yet clear how much Congress will ultimately appropriate for this year's work. However, as noted above, even if the President's request is met, the Corps estimates that an additional investment is needed to complete the project.

Given its scope and importance to the regional economy, we urge you to include sufficient funding in the Corps FY 2015 budget request that will allow the Corps to complete the project on time.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



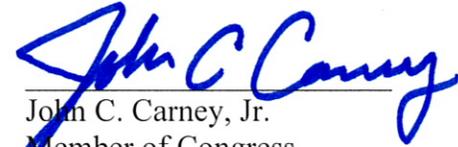
Allyson V. Schwartz
Member of Congress



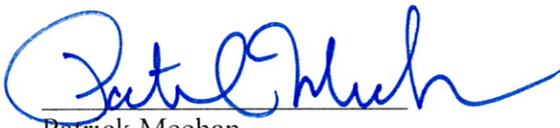
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress