



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

Office of Senator Sullivan
Attn: Erik Elam, Legislative Director
Tyler Roberts, Legislative Assistant
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Alaska's small ports in the 2016 WRDA bill

Dear Mr. Elam and Mr. Roberts,

Funding for the Army Corps of Engineers and the ports in Alaska is critical to our economy and to the ability of our ports to continue to provide economic development benefits to the state and the nation. In particular, consistent and dependable funding to maintain the navigation channels and jetties at smaller ports such as ours is imperative to ensuring that our fishermen and commercial tenants have access to the open ocean.

WRRDA 2014 authorized 10% of annual Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spending be directed to small ports. This provision, however, expires in FY2022. We would like to see this made permanent in the next WRDA bill, so that ports like ours and many others in Alaska can have access to a consistent stream of funding to keep our navigation channels open and our jetties repaired.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden is sponsoring an amendment to make this set-aside permanent in WRDA 2016. We request that Sen. Sullivan join him in co-sponsoring this amendment, to recognize how important our small ports in Alaska and throughout the nation are to our local, regional and national economies. The contact at Sen. Wyden's office is Malcom McGeary, and he can be reached at malcolm_mcgeary@wyden.senate.gov.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stan Eliason
Harbormaster