

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Russell T. Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought:

We write today concerning the development of the Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan and the Norfolk Harbor and Channels Project. As the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) and your office complete work on the Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan and the President's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request, we write to reiterate the importance of the Norfolk Harbor and Channels Project.

Thanks to the cooperation between the Port of Virginia, the Norfolk District, and the rest of the Army staff, construction on the first constructible element, deepening Thimble Shoal Channel – West, began in December 2019, 18 months ahead of schedule. The next steps are to complete the Design during Construction (DDC) on the remaining elements and prepare the next segment for award and construction. In order to maintain this schedule, the project requires a New Start designation and \$2.5 million for construction in the 2020 Work Plan as well as \$49.4 million in the President's 2021 budget request.

As you know, one lane traffic is not sustainable at the Port of Virginia as the size of commercial vessels continues to grow. One lane traffic creates uncertainty and inefficiency for businesses and their supply chains. Additionally, as home to the world's largest naval base – Naval Station Norfolk – the deepening and widening of Norfolk Harbor will support the critical functions of the U.S. Navy. The completion of this project will ensure the continued safe and timely passage of larger commercial and military vessels through Norfolk Harbor. The rapid growth of larger vessels entering maritime trade makes it essential that this project proceed as quickly as possible. The public and private non-federal interests have invested billions of dollars on land-side infrastructure and are prepared to provide their cost share to complete this crucial navigation project in a timely manner.

The Port of Virginia is a commercial and economic engine for the United States and continues to play an integral role in American foreign and domestic commerce and trade. Continued federal investment into this project will allow the Port to remain a prominent economic hub for the nation and a key player in domestic and international trade by generating more than \$78 million in annual national economic development benefits.

Thank you for your consideration. If we can be of any assistance to you going forward, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



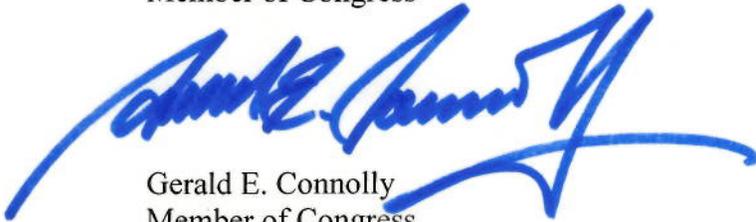
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



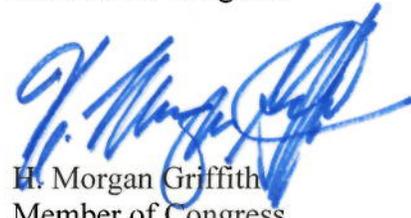
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



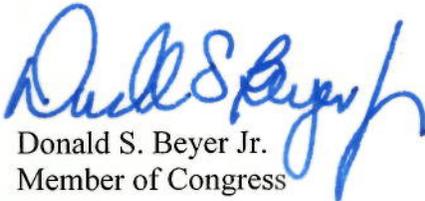
Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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A. Donald McEachin
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Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Denver L. Rigglesman III
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable R. D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Chief of Engineers, US Army Corps of Engineers