

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 10, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

We write today concerning the Army Civil Works Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Work Plan and the lack of adequate funding to complete the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project.

As you know, the project was authorized in 1992 to deepen the shipping channel from 40 feet to 45 feet in order to accommodate larger shipping vessels. This significant federal investment underscores the importance of modernizing our national infrastructure and increasing economic development within the Delaware Valley and across the country. We appreciate the ongoing support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided for this project, and as it nears completion, it is important that the Main Channel Deepening Project receives adequate funding to ensure completion in the coming months.

Due to the Panama Canal expansion, we must prepare our key port terminals along the Delaware River to safely receive deep draft Post-Panamax ships, which represent 16 percent of the global container fleet but carry 45 percent of the world's cargo. It is estimated that deepening the Delaware River will result in an annual increase of 2.5 million tons of cargo, which could bolster job creation and increase economic development throughout the region. Sustained federal investment at this phase of the deepening project will ensure the Delaware Valley is well positioned to meet the future needs of the global trade industry. The absence of sufficient funding from the Army Corps this year could cause the overall cost of the project to increase and delay new economic opportunities for the region.

We urge you to provide sufficient funding within 45 days to bring the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project to completion this year. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate the Corps' past support and look forward to continuing to work with you to complete this critical project.

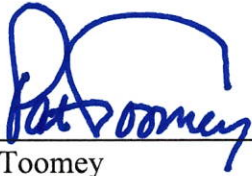
Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



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Pat Toomey  
United States Senator



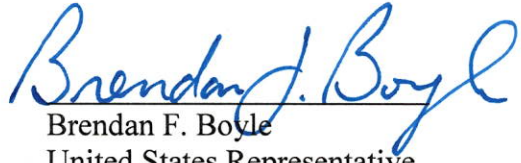
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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



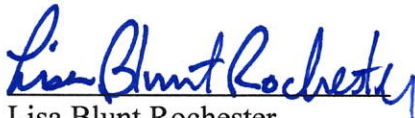
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Robert A. Brady  
United States Representative



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Brendan F. Boyle  
United States Representative



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Representative