



# MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

*Leading the Way to Port Progress*

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July 9, 2018

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

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

This letter requests your help in ensuring full funding necessary to complete the Delaware River 45-foot Main Channel Deepening Project is available this year.

The importance of completing this project cannot be overstated. The substantial federal investment to date, for which we are extremely grateful, coupled with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's contribution, gives obvious credence to the significance of this project. Given this support, it seems illogical that the Army Civil Works FY18 Work Plan does not provide sufficient funds to complete this project in the current budgeting cycle. It is unclear why the Corps would allow continued delays when the end of the project is in sight.

A deeper Delaware River remains crucial to a modern port infrastructure and the associated investment of over \$1 billion in pending developments. The Panama Canal expansion demands deep draft capabilities for Delaware River port terminals if they are to receive Post-Panamax ships, if they are to remain competitive in the nation's transportation sector, and if they are to be contenders in the global trade community of the future.

The Delaware River port community has poured its heart and soul into moving this project forward for nearly three decades. Now, mere months from realizing this long-awaited goal, is certainly not the time to hold back the funding needed to finish this critical project. On the contrary, extending the work another year can only cause the overall cost of the project to increase further and delay sorely-needed economic benefits to our region.

The Corps has been generous in its past support for this project; we request the funding to bring this project to timely completion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the signers with any questions.

Sincerely,

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cc: Lisa Hember, Vice President