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Congress of the United States
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U.S. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for a study of the Columbia River Turning Basin in the United States Army Corps' (Corps) Investigations account fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Northwest Division USACE located at 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd Ste 400 Portland, OR 97232-1257.

The Columbia River Pilots have identified several channel-depth turning basins that are needed to continue to efficiently move and maneuver deep-draft vessels while maintaining a margin of safety, and that are logistically the most favorable and most cost-effective areas for the Corps to maintain. When water levels are low in the late summer to early fall, multiple deep draft vessels are awaiting a "window" to depart, and locations on the river system to anchor while they do so are difficult to find. Establishing turning basins are critical to meet this logistical challenge as they provide the second to last place on a vessel's outbound transit where there is room to turn and wait before they commit to exiting the Columbia River.

The first step in completing this critical work is for the Corps to conduct a feasibility study, which this Community Project Funding request would support. This study would also benefit the Port of Kalama who is seeking authorization to construct a new turning basin and the Port of Longview who is seeking to have their basin deepened and widened. The study will put them both on the path to having their projects authorized. These projects will benefit not only the ports of Kalama and Longview's River traffic, but also all deep-draft vessels transiting the Columbia River Channel. This will bring more safety and commerce to the Columbia River system.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress