

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Friday, May, 19, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Douglas Lamont  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Director Mulvaney and Deputy Assistant Secretary Lamont:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2017 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program, we request that you include new start funding for the Jacksonville Harbor deep dredge navigation project.

The 47-foot improvement project, authorized by the Water Resources Development and Reform Act of 2014 is fully vetted and recommended by the Army Corps. In addition, all preconstruction work is complete and the project is ready to go. On completion, the project will create 15,000 U.S. jobs and a \$24 return for every \$1.00 invested. Moreover, the project meets the congressional requirements for the allocation of the additional construction appropriations provided by the 2017 omnibus bill. In addition to growing U.S. jobs, the project will enhance the nation's economic growth and international competitiveness. The Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) between the Army Corps and Port Authority is in place.

As Florida's largest container port, the Jacksonville Port (JAXPORT) is strategically positioned to accommodate the evolving needs of global shipping, including shifting trade routes and the growth in the new generation of commercial ships transiting the expanded Panama Canal to the U.S. East Coast. These mega-sized container ships require deep draft in order to facilitate efficient and cost effective shipping. JAXPORT's extensive intermodal connections including rail, highway and water, combined with modern terminal facilities, maximize efficiencies for transporting goods through the harbor to overseas destinations and to 50 million U.S. consumers in America's hinterland.

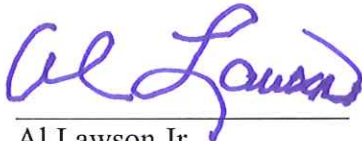
JAXPORT supports \$26.9 billion in total economic output, 132,000 jobs, and \$727 million in state and local taxes, of which \$169 million in taxes are directly generated by cargo operations. A deeper draft will expand JAXPORT's economic impact and drive growth for the nation.

As one of 17 U.S. commercial Ports designated by the Department of Defense (DOD) as strategic to the nation's security, the Jacksonville Harbor plays a critical role in the deployment of military cargo overseas, including most recently, the deployment of resources to Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, the federal shipping channel supports ongoing DOD operations, including the U.S. Marine Corps prepositioning ships program on Blount Island.

As the nonfederal sponsor, the Jacksonville Port Authority, in conjunction with the State of Florida, is prepared to advance and contribute a significant share of the dredging costs. The estimated federal cost is \$312.8 million; the nonfederal cost, \$371.4 million. Initial funds in the FY 2017 Army Corps work plan will be the catalyst for a successful partnership with the federal government.

We respectfully thank you in advance for your support for investing in the Jacksonville Harbor deep dredge project. The deep dredge is a significant project nationally which will produce U.S. jobs and drive economic growth for our nation.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson Jr.  
Member of Congress



John Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress