

Enrolled

Senate Joint Memorial 7

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Senate Committee on Transportation)

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas Oregon's ports are vital government organizations that are positioned to facilitate economic development and are instrumental in providing capital improvements and business assistance related to attracting and partnering with private sector investments; and

Whereas Oregon's 23 ports, both coastal and river, provide many types of public facilities and services; and

Whereas Oregon's ports were established to improve waterborne commerce and have evolved due to economic forces and local government circumstances into a diverse set of agencies; and

Whereas Oregon's coastal ports have over 7,000 moorage slips providing access to the ocean; and

Whereas Oregon's coastal port facilities provide for approximately 110,000 commercial and 350,000 recreational vessel crossings to the ocean each year; and

Whereas Oregon's ports create opportunities for commercial developments and industrial parks and provide avenues for financing all kinds of economic development; and

Whereas every Oregon port supplies a broad range of services and facilities involving economic activities that generate income and jobs; and

Whereas Oregon's ports have invested millions of dollars for capital assets in berths, moorage, storage and service facilities; and

Whereas one in six jobs in the Portland metropolitan area is affected by the Port of Portland, and marine-related activities in the region influence 75,100 jobs and generate \$970 million in total income for the metropolitan area annually; and

Whereas Oregon's ports other than the Port of Portland generate an estimated \$294 million in total personal income, 14,000 jobs and over \$57 million in state and local taxes in regional economies; and

Whereas industries closely linked to port activities generate approximately \$860 million in total personal income, 40,000 jobs and \$162 million in taxes; and

Whereas Oregon communities, as well as the state's economy, depend heavily on uninterrupted navigation channel access; and

Whereas the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was statutorily established by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to collect harbor maintenance tax revenues and to expend those revenues for the maintenance of the navigational capability of our nation's ports and harbors serving recreational, fishing and commercial cargo users, including all such Oregon ports; and

Whereas funds collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund would be sufficient to fulfill national and Oregon navigation maintenance needs, but are not being fully expended, thus creating a shortfall in funds available for the intended dredging and jetty rehabilitation uses; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the State of Oregon that federal funding for dredging Oregon's ports be preserved at levels sufficient to maintain the channels and harbors in order to sustain marine safety and the economic growth provided by Oregon's 23 port districts; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is urged that, in fashioning policies that affect by whom and how navigation channels are funded or maintained, Congress at a minimum preserve the existing levels and extent of operation and maintenance services now provided.

(2) The Congress of the United States is further urged that all revenues collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund be fully expended for the purposes expressed in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and that Congress enact any legislation required to mandate the full expenditure of the revenues.

(3) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate April 14, 2005

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate

Adopted by House May 18, 2005

Speaker of House