



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DELAWARE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Alan B. Levin
Director

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

I am writing to express the Delaware Economic Development Office's (DEDO) support for the proposed dredging project on the Nanticoke River in Delaware. Specifically, I want to encourage you to support the necessary appropriation to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Office to complete dredging of the River in Sussex County, Delaware. This long overdue and much needed project will restore the river channel from its current 8 foot depth to its historic operating depth of 12 feet. The project will also result in a channel 100 feet wide with a 9 foot turning basin.

The Nanticoke River was last dredged in the late 1980's and this lack of routine maintenance is now having a significant negative economic impact. According to a 2005 Salisbury University study, the economic impact of the Nanticoke River waterborne commerce was nearly \$2.4B. The Delmarva Water Transport Committee reports that in the same year, 2005, the Nanticoke River carried 1,556,859 tons of freight. This dropped almost in half to 814,670 by 2008. In recent years, several businesses located on the river in Delaware and dependent on it for their raw materials have been forced to reduce their operations due to the severely reduced capacity of river barges. This has cost Delaware jobs.

Key federal approvals and required facilities are in place including, most importantly, an appropriate dredge spoil site acquired by Sussex County, Delaware, the local sponsor. DEDO's support assumes that the Army Corps will be coordinating with the Delaware Department of

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Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to secure the appropriate state approvals necessary to undertake the project.

I know I don't have to tell you that restoring the Nanticoke to its historic depths is crucial to the economic vitality of Sussex County, the City of Seaford and the agricultural economy of Southern Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. With your support and assistance we will get this vital economic engine operating at full throttle again.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan B. Levin

Director

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