

WEST GULF MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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February 29, 2012

The Honorable Charles Boustany
Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight
The Honorable Pat Tiberi
Chair, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

Re: Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and Tax

Dear Chairmen:

The West Gulf Maritime Association is a trade association organized in early 1968 to represent the interests of ship owners, operators, agents, as well as stevedoring and terminal companies located in all ports from Brownsville, Texas, to the Port of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

As a result of federal under-investment, federal channels in U.S. ports now have available on average less than thirty-five percent of the authorized and required channel dimensions. Users have paid sufficient annual revenue into the fund to cover the need. Indeed, today a surplus of more than \$6 billion exists in the fund, with annual revenue of more than \$1.4 billion and growing. The annual need for maintenance dredging is in the range of \$1.3 to \$1.6 billion according to the Army Corps of Engineers, and is comparable to the funds collected. However, over the past five years, annual expenditures for channel maintenance have averaged less than \$800 million, creating the surplus and leaving users with inadequately maintained channels. The net result is increased costs for waterborne transportation users, higher prices to consumers, and reduced competitiveness of U.S. exports in the global marketplace.

The situation is only exacerbated by the need to prepare our country for the Panama Canal expansion. It is vital that our country is prepared for the larger capacity ships expected to enter our ports. This makes it even more important that our channels and ports are adequately maintained and dredged. I applaud the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures for hearing this important issue. It is our hope that these committees are able to reach a viable solution to this problem – specifically by aiding in the passage of H.R. 104 and S. 412, as well as H.R. 1533.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. With over 180 members, the West Gulf Maritime Association is more than happy to make ourselves available as a resource on this and any other maritime transportation issue.

Very truly yours,



Nathan Wesely
President

3D MARINE USA	CHENIERE LNG	GALORG USA
ACCP	CHINA SHIPPING NORTH AMERICA	GARNER ENVIRONMENTAL
AET INC. LIMITED	CHIPOLBROK AMERICA	GERMANISCHER LLOYD
AGILITY LOGISTICS	CH2MHILL	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL & MARINE SERVICES
ALLIANCE GROUP RESEARCH	CITGO PETROLEUM	GLOBAL STEAMSHIP AGENCIES
ALLTRANS PORT SERVICES	CLIPPER AMERICAS	GOLDEN PASS LNG
AMERICAN SHIPPING & CHARTERING CORP.	CLIPPER WONSILD TANKERS	GP TERMINALS
APM TERMINALS	CMA CGM (AMERICA)	GUARDIAN MARITIME
ARGOSY TRANSPORTATION GROUP	COASTAL SHIPPING & LOGISTICS COMPANY	GULF COPPER DRY DOCK & RIG REPAIR
ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE	COOPER/T. SMITH STEVEDORING	GULF HARBOR SHIPPING
AURORA TANKERS USA	COSCO NORTH AMERICA	GULF INTRACOASTAL CANAL ASSOCIATION
AYERS MARITIME SERVICES	DANNER'S ORPORATED	GULF STEVEDORING SERVICES
AZTEC MARINE AGENCIES	DAVIS SHIP AGENCIES	GULF SUNRISE AGENCY
BARBOURS CUT INTERMODAL SERVICES	DET NORSKE VERITAS CLASSIFICATION (AMERICAS)	GULF WINDS INTERNATIONAL
BASDEN AGENCIES	DIX SHIPPING	HAPAG-LLOYD (AMERICA)
BAY HOUSTON TOWING CO.	DOWLEY SECURITY SYSTEMS	HBG LOGISTICS
BAYPORT GLOBAL LOGISTICS	ECM MARITIME SERVICES	HOEGH AUTOLINERS
BBC CHARTERING USA	EAGLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CO.	HOLMAN SHIPPING
BERTLING LOGISTICS	EITZEN CHEMICAL USA	HORIZON LINES
BEST BET LINE HANDLERS	EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES	HOUSTON MOORING COMPANY
BIEHL & CO., L.P.	EURONAV	HCAPE SHIPPING SERVICES
BIGLER TERMINALS, LP	EXECUTIVE SHIPPING SERVICES (USA)	INTEGRATED MARINE SERVICES
BLUE WATER SHIPPING US	FILLETTE, GREEN SHIPPING SERVICES	INTERCONTINENTAL TERMINALS COMPANY
BP PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA	FRANK MOHN HOUSTON	INTERGULF CORPORATION
BRAEMAR MARINE	FREEPORT LNG	INTERSCHALT MARITIME SYSTEMS
CELTIC INT'L SHIPPING AGENCY	FRITZ MARITIME AGENCIES	INTERSEE HOUSTON
CENTRAL HEALTHCARE SERVICE	GAC-RUR	INTERTANKO
CERES GULF		J.A.M. MARINE SERVICES
CHAPARRAL STEVEDORING CO. OF TEXAS		JO TANKERS

K & C SHIPPING	OILTANKING	SCHRÖDER MARINE SERVICES
“K” LINE AMERICA	ODFJELL USA (HOUSTON)	SE SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD
LBH GROUP	OOCL (USA)	SEARIVER MARITIME
LEEWARD AGENCY	O'ROURKE MARINE SERVICES	SEAWAYS MARITIME SERVICES
LIGHTHOUSE SHIPPING	PORT HOUSTON TERMINAL	SHELL TRADING
MAERSK LINE	PORT MEDICAL	SHIPPERS STEVEDORING CO.
MALIN INTERNATIONAL SHIP REPAIR & DRYDOCK	PORT OF BEAUMONT	SKAUGEN PETROTRANS
MARINE AGENCIES	PORT OF BROWNSVILLE	SOUTHERN RECYCLING
MARINE HEALTHCARE SERVICES	PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI	SOUTHERN STEVEDORING CO.
MARINE TERMINALS CORPORATION	PORT OF FREEPORT	SOUTHPORT AGENCIES
MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY	PORT OF GALVESTON	SSA GULF
MID-GULF SHIPPING	PORT OF HARLINGEN AUTHORITY	STAR SHIPPING (NY)
MITSUI	PORT OF LAKE CHARLES	SUDERMAN STEVEDORES
MOFFAT AND NICHOL	PORT OF ORANGE	SUDERMAN TERMINAL OPERATORS
MONTREAL MARINE USA,	PORT OF TEXAS CITY	SUDERMAN & YOUNG TOWING COMPANY, L.P.
MORAN-GULF SHIPPING AGENCIES	PORTS AMERICA HOUSTON	SUMITOMO CORPORATION OF AMERICA
NEWSHIP	PORTVISION	SWIRE SHIPPING
NORDANA LINE	PROBULK AGENCY	T & T BISSO
NORD-SUD SHIPPING	PROMAR AGENCY	TARGA RESOURCES
NORTH STAR MARITIME	RESK MARITIME RESOURCES	TEEKAY MARINE SERVICES
NORTON LILLY INTERNATIONAL	REYNOLDS DOCKSIDE SERVICES	TEXAS MARINE AGENCY
NOVA INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING	RICKMERS-LINIE (AMERICA)	TEXAS MOORING
NSA AGENCIES	RILEY- SHERMAN SHIPPING AGENCY	THE ROWLAND GROUP
NEWSHIP	ROLLDOCK (AMERICAS)	TOTAL MARINE TRANSPORT
NORDIC TANKERS	SAFETY FIRST	TRANSCO SHIPPING (USA)
NYK LINE	SAL HEAVY LIFT USA	TRANSMARINE NAVIGATION CORP.
OBC SHIPPING	SANCO SHIPPING	UNIGAS INTERNATIONAL
	SAN JUAN NAVIGATION	UNITED STATES MARITIME
	SCAN-TRANS	
	SCHAEFER STEVEDORING	

SERVICES	VOPAK	YANG MING CORPORATION
UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL SERVICES	WALLENIOUS	(AMERICA)
VALERO	WESTWAY TERMINALS	ZIM-AMERICAN INTEGRATED SHIPPING
VALLS SHIPPING COMPANY	WILD WELL CONTROL	
	WILHELMOSEN SHIPS SERVICES	