



Lake Carriers' Association

The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes

JAMES H. I. WEAKLEY, PRESIDENT

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The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20515

**Will There Be Enough Money to Dredge Ohio Ports in FY13?
Tomorrow's Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Mark-Up Will Decide**

Dear Representative Kaptur:

The Great Lakes dredging crisis is deepening. The Administration's budget for FY12 allocated funds for only 11 of the 60 Federally maintained ports on the Great Lakes. As a result, five of Ohio's eight Federally maintained Lake Erie ports will not be dredged in 2012: Sandusky, Huron, Fairport Harbor, Ashtabula and Conneaut. **In 2007, the last year before the recession gripped our nation, those ports handled 26,000,000 tons of cargo, or 2.2 tons for each resident of Ohio.**

The Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up its FY13 Appropriations bill tomorrow morning. Rep. Boustany (R-LA) has asked full Committee Chairman Rogers and Subcommittee Frelinghuysen to provide \$1.3 billion for harbor maintenance in FY13. **It is critical that you communicate your support for this level of funding to the Committee Chairman and Subcommittee Chairman.**

How important is this to Ohio? Our members' largest vessels lose 270 tons of cargo for each inch of reduced draft. Those vessels, what we call the "1,000-footers," frequently discharge in Toledo, Cleveland, Ashtabula and Conneaut. Even the smaller vessels that trade to Fairport Harbor or Huron forfeit 100 tons for each inch of lost draft. Ships are the greenest form of transportation, but lack of dredging is negating the benefits (economic as well) of waterborne commerce to and from Ohio.

Your commitment to Great Lakes shipping is near legendary. We ask that you support inclusion of \$1.3 billion for harbor maintenance in the FY13 Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

James H. I. Weakley
President

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The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes

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CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. ♦ GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. ♦ GREAT LAKES FLEET/KEY LAKES, INC.
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