

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 28, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The White House Office of Management
& Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Ricky "R.D." James
Assistant Secretary
Office of the Assistant Secretary of
the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Director Mulvaney and Assistant Secretary James,

We write to you with the upmost urgency regarding Hampton Harbor, New Hampshire's largest commercial fishing port. Since it was last dredged in 2013, the harbor has experienced significant shoaling that will require emergency dredging. The New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbors has indicated that without this maintenance, the harbor could become unusable in the very near future. We ask that you include this project in the Fiscal Year 2018 Corps Work Plan to ensure Hampton Harbor remains functional.

In recent years, accelerated shoreline erosion has caused the harbor to fill with tailings from a nearby tidal sandbar. The channel's deterioration has forced many vessels that enter and exit the harbor to rely on the tides to successfully navigate the shallow water. In December 2015, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released a Condition Survey that confirmed that shoaling has caused harbor depths to become shallower than the authorized depth. A more recent shoaling report from November 2017 shows that this problem has intensified in some areas of the harbor. Unfortunately, recent winter storms Quinn, Riley and Skylar have made matters worse by causing the failure of a jetty that protects the harbor mouth.

Hampton Harbor is an essential part of the New Hampshire seacoast economy and public safety infrastructure. The harbor currently supports 25 party-fishing boats, numerous lobster and commercial fishing boats, a federally funded pier with emergency response and patrol boats, and approximately 1,500 recreational vessels that are launched through the Hampton River Marina. According to the New Hampshire Port Authority, the marina is estimated to be the single largest contributor of the Hampton economy, and hundreds of jobs would be at risk if the harbor were to become nonfunctional. Additionally, Hampton Harbor provides barge support for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. The harbor also serves as a refuge to rescue vessels from neighboring ports in Massachusetts. In the absence of emergency dredge maintenance, vessels utilizing the harbor's resources may soon be unable to access or reach the open ocean.

In order to ensure that Hampton Harbor remains usable, we believe that it should be prioritized as maintenance funds are distributed to other small harbors. We are also aware that this project may be eligible for emergency funds that were appropriated in Public Law 115-123. As your offices continue to develop both the Fiscal Year 2018 Corps Work Plan and the emergency supplemental work plan, we respectfully request that you give all possible consideration to

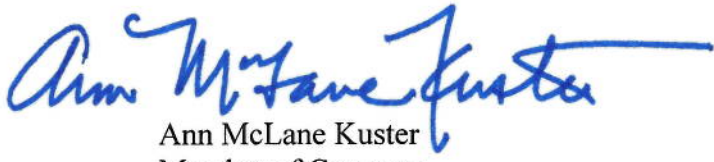
expediting the maintenance of Hampton Harbor. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Jeanne Shaheen and Margaret Wood Hassan in blue ink.

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Ann McLane Kuster in blue ink.

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Carol Shea-Porter in blue ink.

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

cc: New England District, United States Army Corps of Engineers
New Hampshire Port Authority
Yankee Fishermen's Cooperative
Town of Hampton
Town of Seabrook
Eastman's Docks, LLC
Hampton River Marina