



RANDY WEBER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I request \$283 million for the Sabine-Neches Waterway (SNWW) Channel Improvement Program (CIP) in fiscal year 2023. The funding would be used to deepen the SNWW from its current 40-foot depth to its congressionally authorized depth of 48 feet, as authorized in WRDA 2014. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Sabine-Neches Navigation District (SNND), located at 8180 Anchor Drive, Port Arthur, Texas 77642.

SNWW services America's leading energy and strategic military port, and this channel represents the nation's #1 exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). No project can do more for America and its allies right now than the SNWW CIP.

By fully funding this project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will have the capability to maximize its capacity, through a generous local match. ***The local non-Federal contribution (\$400 million, or 40 percent of total project costs, rather than the usual 25 percent) is three times what most states put up locally to support their federal ship channel improvement projects.*** Moreover, given the vast expansion of LNG production capability in Louisiana and southeast Texas, the return to federal coffers from this project alone will not only pay for itself, but it will also provide the much-needed revenues to fund a significant backlog of USACE priorities.

USACE must have its full federal share capability in order to allow the SNND to simultaneously let its dredging contracts. This full federal share will allow the SNND to pick up at the point where federal funding runs out, while allowing the SNND to take the first cut to deepen the SNWW (6 feet) all the way from that point to the top of the federal channel upriver to Beaumont without stopping. This value-engineering deepening process will save American taxpayers over \$180 million, and it will ensure the nation gets 50 percent of its channel improvement for the entire ship channel faster and cheaper.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress