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4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request funding for Port of Newport International Terminal RORO Dock Repair (Newport, OR), in the amount of \$361,075 within the Committee's Community Project Funding effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Port of Newport, located at 600 SE Bay Blvd, Newport, Oregon 97365.

Port of Newport International Terminal RORO Dock Repair (Newport, OR)

The Port of Newport is requesting \$361,075 for RORO ("roll-on/roll-off") dock repairs at the Port of Newport International Terminal (NIT), which provides berths for cargo and large fishing vessels in Lincoln County, Oregon. NIT was renovated in 2011, which included extensive work to the pier. The existing RORO dock was left in place, and the new pier was built around it. At the time the pier was renovated, this section was assessed, and repairs were completed to extend the life of the pilings.

These pilings are now in serious need of repair. The Port recently hired KPFF Engineering to perform an inspection on approximately 51 pilings at NIT to assess the current conditions. The need for repair of pilings was prevalent from the splash zone, up to and including the concrete around the pile caps. There are also concrete repairs needed to address spalling under the pier, and pile strengthening work is needed above and below the splash zone. Additionally, to slow the rate of corrosion and address piling issues above the splash zone, the pilings will be wrapped.

The estimated cost of construction work is approximately \$657,000, based on a 50% engineering estimate of cost prepared by KPFF Engineering. The requested \$360,000 in Community Project Funding will be utilized entirely on the repair of the pier.

The Port of Newport International Terminal is the only dock capable of receiving freight in the region. In addition, this dock services the large distant fishing fleet in Newport, which is responsible for a large impact on the region's economy. The Port is seeking to diversify the area's economy where unemployment is at 5.8%, while Oregon is at 4.8% and the rest of the country is at 3.6%. Without this dock, Lincoln County – where the Port of Newport is located – will have to continue to rely on tourism and fisheries alone. The Port of Newport seeks to repair the dock, so they can continue to bring cargo into the area and benefit the community.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a). Based on 2020 Census data, the City of Newport has a population of approximately 10,256. As specified in 7 CFR 3570.53, any Community Facilities project must serve a rural area (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents). In addition, this request is subject to cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). The City of Newport's population makes it eligible for up to 55% grant funding under 7 CFR 3570.63(b).

The Community Facilities Program is meant to ensure that rural areas have essential community infrastructure and the same basic quality of life and services as those in urban areas. The Port of Newport International Terminal RORO Dock Repair (Newport, OR) Community Project Funding request is perfectly aligned with the intent of this program.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val T. Hoyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

Val T. Hoyle
Member of Congress