

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 19, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Rankings Members,

As you enter into deliberations to resolve differences in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), we are writing to strongly support the inclusion of language in the final WRRDA bill to authorize the Boston Harbor Federal Deep Draft Navigation Improvement Project.


The Boston Harbor Federal Deep Draft Navigation Improvement Project would deepen Boston Harbor's main navigation channels to prevent tidal delays and increase commerce. Further, the project would allow the Port to accommodate ships being built to serve the expanded Panama Canal, which is planned to open in 2015. Additionally, the Army Corps projects that for every dollar spent on construction, there will be nearly nine dollars returned in increased economic activity – resulting in a \$2.7 billion economic benefit for the entire New England region. The Corps has completed a lengthy study of the project and has submitted its Chief's report in September recommending the project for authorization.

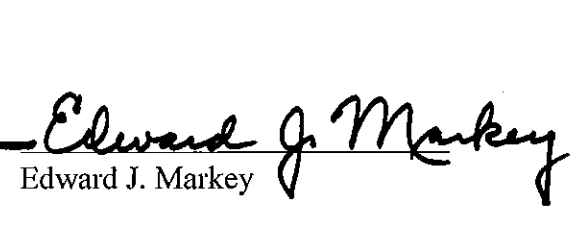
We understand that the Senate's version of WRRDA includes language in Sections 1002 and 1004 that will authorize projects for water resources development, conservation, and other purposes where the Army Corps of Engineers has completed a report recommending authorization. While we believe that this language is sufficient to ultimately ensure that the Boston Harbor Federal Deep Draft Navigation Improvement Project will be authorized, we ask that the Committee list this project in the conference report to preempt any potential ambiguity that could occur. Alternatively, if the Committee decides to mimic the House passed bill and

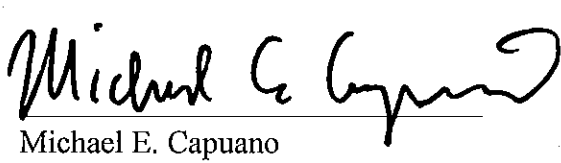
specifically name the projects in the text of the legislation, we urge you to include the project on that list.

We know there are many important projects and policy matters before the conferees, so we hope this critical regional project can be easily agreed to. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

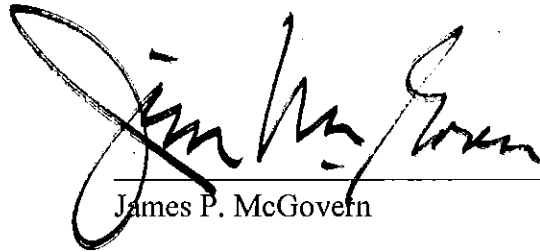
  
Elizabeth A. Warren

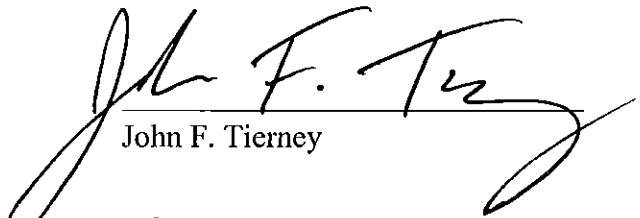
  
Edward J. Markey

  
Michael E. Capuano

  
Stephen F. Lynch

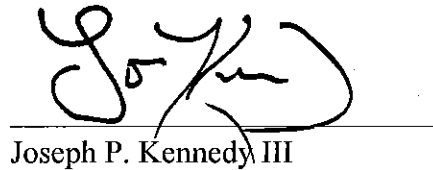
  
Richard E. Neal

  
James P. McGovern

  
John F. Tierney

  
Niki S. Tsongas

  
William R. Keating

  
Joseph P. Kennedy III