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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2023

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The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$2.5 million for the Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, FL (authorized name of the project) for fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers subject to the local cooperation of the Florida Inland Navigation District as provided for in law and the River and Harbors Act of 1927. The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) is a subdivision of the State of Florida empowered to serve as the sponsor of the Federal project and has adequate resources to fulfill its local cooperation.

The Spacecoast of Florida, including Brevard and Indian River counties, are growing rapidly in population and regional economic output. Since 2010, Brevard's population has grown by 15.1% and Brevard is now the tenth largest county in Florida. Adjacent Indian River County grew by 20.5%. By comparison Miami-Dade county grew by 10.7%. Growth in the Spacecoast region means increasing demand for many services, and among the services most critical to the quality of life is sustained, efficient transportation. Brevard is home to the Kennedy Space Center and Patrick Space Force Base and these important national missions are also driving demand for transportation.

Today efficient transportation is multimodal and intermodal. All transportation modes are called on to link with other modes to deliver and sustain an efficient transportation system. The Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, Florida, is an integral part of the Spacecoast multimodal transportation system. Tons of cargo and thousands of boaters rely on adequate dredging to remove shoals and maintain efficient depths. NASA owns the Pegasus, a barge that is used to transport the large components of spacecraft, engines, tanks and launch platforms. Our space program and rapidly growing commercial space sector also depend on Florida's section of the intercoastal waterway.

While we are grateful for the Administration's commitment to the waterway, this \$2.5 million request will fund maintenance of several important waterway reaches with documented shoaling problems. These improvements are necessary to sustain navigation for Brevard County. Brevard County requires dredging for water quality concerns, as well as navigation. In order to provide

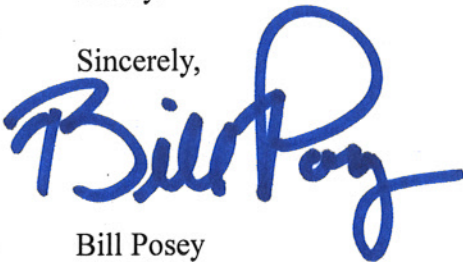
for the placement of material from dredging projects, there also is a dire need for upland dewatering sites (Dredged Material Management Areas or DMMA's). Federal funding would be matched with FIND dollars in equal or greater amounts and allow for the construction of two DMMA facilities in this important waterway area.

Economic Studies provide impressive estimates of the impacts of the waterway on the Spacecoast when properly maintained: For Brevard County the waterway produces \$1.4 billion in annual economic benefits including \$1 billion in tourism spending and \$123 million in boater spending. In Indian River County, an associated \$485 million in annual economic benefits includes \$246 million generated by tourism and \$119 million generated by boater spending. At the state and national level, the Intracoastal Waterway annually transports tons of commercial cargo and are utilized by over 180,000 recreational vessels; provides \$16.5 billion in waterway-related, annual economic output, which includes \$11.4 billion in annual tourist spending from over 7.2 million tourists, and generates over 208,000 Florida jobs. The waterways generate \$3.4 billion in additional tax revenues and increase property values (on average) by \$48 billion. Studies have shown that these benefits will be reduced by 16% if the waterway is not properly maintained.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Congress in the 1927 Rivers and Harbors Act, PL 70-560.

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

Sincerely,



Bill Posey
Member of Congress