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James A. Himes
Congress of the United States
4th District Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2137 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5541

DISTRICT OFFICES:
350 FAIRFIELD AVENUE, SUITE 603,
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604
(203) 333-6600

888 WASHINGTON BLVD., 10TH FLOOR
STAMFORD, CT 06901
(203) 354-9400

June 4, 2021

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
H-307 The Capitol
First St SE
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
1036 Longworth House Office Building
1 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, New England District to undertake the Westport Harbor and Saugatuck River Federal Navigation Project in Fiscal Year 2022. This request is for the Operations and Maintenance account under the Army Corps of Engineers. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, located at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742.

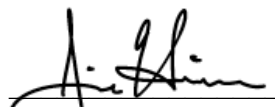
The Town of Westport is seeking \$2,810,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers for surveys, plans and specifications, and dredging of the Westport Harbor and Saugatuck River Federal Navigation Project.

The Saugatuck River flows through the center of Westport, CT, through Westport Harbor, and into the Long Island Sound. The original authorizations for work to ensure the navigability of the Saugatuck River and Westport Harbor Date back to the late 1820s and early 1830s, with work continuing up to 1970. Since then, neither the River nor the Harbor have been dredged, causing significant shoaling in the area. The town of Westport has worked with the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers in recent years to dredge the project to allow for access to the town's downtown area via boat. Though preliminary work has happened on the project, dredging of the Westport Harbor and Saugatuck River Federal Navigation Project was not included in the Army Corps of Engineers proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Civil Works budget.

This project would be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would result in the dredging of an authorized Federal navigation project that has not been dredged in more than 50 years. This dredging project would improve the safety and quality of life of the people of Westport, CT.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


JIM HIMES
Member of Congress