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Compromise omnibus spending bill increases Corps funding for Northwest Projects

Northwest navigation and environmental restoration projects supported by PNWA received substantial funding boosts in the FY2008 compromise omnibus bill released Monday, and now making its way through Congress. PNWA Executive Director Glenn Vanselow stated that despite the difficult spending climate, "the Northwest Congressional delegation did an excellent job securing funding for Northwest projects overlooked in the Administration's budget." He added that "PNWA members appreciate the work done by the Northwest delegation, specifically U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D, OR-4), to protect navigation in the Northwest." Vanselow noted that "several important projects were funded at levels near the President's budget, and will be able to proceed, including Columbia River channel deepening as well as operations and maintenance of the Columbia Snake River System navigation locks."

PNWA President and Port of Newport Manager Don Mann noted that "I am optimistic that the funding levels for all PNWA-supported projects will be adequate to maintain navigation in the Northwest for the remainder of the FY2008 fiscal year." While a rescission has been applied to nearly all projects, the omnibus bill retains most earmarks included by Congress in the House and Senate appropriations bills developed over the past ten months. Mann added that "PNWA-supported projects received increases over the amounts proposed in the President's budget", including:

- Columbia River at the Mouth (MCR), including the Columbia River Jetties
- Coos Bay navigation channel and jetties at the Port of Coos Bay
- Tillamook Bay & Bar navigation channel and jetties at the Port of Garibaldi
- Siuslaw River navigation channel and jetties at the Port of Siuslaw
- Yaquina River navigation channel at the Port of Toledo
- Umpqua River navigation channel at the Port of Umpqua
- Swinomish Channel at the Port of Skagit County
- Columbia River at Baker Bay navigation channel at the Port of Ilwaco
- Columbia River b/t Chinook & Sand Island navigation channel at the Port of Chinook
- Elliott Bay Seawall at the Port of Seattle
- Lower Columbia River ecosystem restoration
- Lake Washington Ship Canal restoration study

PNWA supports continued investment in the development and maintenance of the federal navigation projects that support international trade and regional economic development. Oregon and Washington ports move more than 60 million tons of cargo, worth \$36 billion, in international trade. The Puget Sound and Columbia River gateways are some of the largest in the country for containers; wheat, barley and corn exports; and automobile imports. Barging on the Columbia Snake River system carries approximately 12 million tons of cargo worth \$2-2.5 billion annually, and feeds 50% of the wheat exports and 20% of the containers handled at Lower Columbia River ports. Oregon and Washington coastal ports are home to fishing fleets, marinas and significant commercial and recreational facilities. The ability to develop this competitive advantage by maintaining navigation infrastructure in the Northwest is critical to ensuring the economic survival of the region.

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About PNWA: The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic development. PNWA represents multiple industries in the public and private sectors in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California. Members include public ports, navigation, transportation, international trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and local government interests. Since its founding in 1934, PNWA led the way for development of economic infrastructure for navigation, electric power and irrigated agriculture on the Columbia and Snake River System. In 1971, PNWA expanded, adding Puget Sound and coastal port members to provide a comprehensive regional perspective. Today,

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PNWA works with the U.S. Congress, federal agencies and regional decision leaders on transportation, trade, tourism, energy and environmental policy to enhance economic vitality in the Pacific Northwest.

You can learn more about PNWA at www.pnwa.net.



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