



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #673 April 10, 2019

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House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee host Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund hearing

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairwoman Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA) have announced an April 10th hearing titled "The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and Investment in our Nation's Waterways Matter". The focus of the hearing is to examine the key role that ports and waterways play in the economy, and highlight the importance of full utilization of the [Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund](#) (HMTF).

Rick Goche, Commissioner from the Port of Bandon, Oregon, is one of the key witnesses testifying at the hearing, along with additional port representatives from Los Angeles and Long Island. His testimony does a wonderful job of describing his perspective as both a Commissioner and commercial fisherman, and the role that the HMTF plays in providing safe passage for Rick and his colleagues as they make their way to and from the open ocean. In particular, Rick describes the dangerous "breaking bar" conditions at many of our ports and harbors along the Oregon and Washington coasts, and how the HMTF funding directed to these

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navigation projects to maintain those entrance channels and the jetties that protect them, is vital to ensuring safe passage for commercial and recreational vessels of all sizes. Rick's testimony, and other information, can be found on the [Committee website](#).

This hearing is a follow up to the T&I hearing held in early February focusing on the importance of investments in transportation infrastructure. Kristin Meira, PNWA executive director, testified at the February 7th [hearing](#) to represent the perspective of ports and navigation. For more information on this and our 2019 infrastructure priorities, please visit our [website](#) or contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

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