



# Nor'wester newsletter

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## Welcome new member: TRC

A pioneer in groundbreaking scientific and engineering developments since the 1960s, TRC is a national engineering, environmental consulting and construction



management firm providing integrated services to the power, oil and gas, environmental and infrastructure markets. From more than 140 offices throughout the U.S., our 5,300 employees serve a broad range of commercial, industrial and government clients, implementing complex projects from initial concept to operations.

Our multidisciplinary environmental practice represents a wide range of scientific disciplines and include specialists in: Phase I environmental site assessments (ESAs), Phase II ESAs, building material assessments (lead and asbestos), human health risk assessments (HHRA), remedial investigation/feasibility studies (RI/FS), Remedial Action Plans (RAPs), groundwater monitoring, permitting, remedial design (for both hazardous and non-hazardous waste sites), operations and maintenance (O&M) remedial treatment systems, construction, excavation, plant closures, waste management, stormwater management, and regulatory compliance.

Visit us at <https://www.trccompanies.com/>

## PNWA and members show support for Full Utilization of HMTF

PNWA and at least eight of our members submitted [letters of support](#) for H.R. 2440 –

October 22, 2019



The Honorable Peter Defazio  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
Chairwoman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment  
H-585 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20502

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment  
H-590 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20502

Chairman Defazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairwoman Napolitano, and Ranking Member Westerman,

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), thank you for introducing the "Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act" (H.R. 2440). Fully spending Harbor Maintenance Tax collections each year has been a key priority for the membership of PNWA, and we appreciate that this bill would not only allow access to annual HMTF collections, but also to the surplus of unspent funds. This legislation would pave the way for the Corps of Engineers to perform critical dredging and jetty maintenance to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.

In the Pacific Northwest, we have a broad range of ports that rely on robust funding for the Corps' coastal operations & maintenance program. In our region alone, HMTF dollars maintain gateways like Grays Harbor, WA where traffic has increased over 400% in the last fifteen years; in Everett, WA where nearly \$50 billion worth of U.S. goods are exported annually; and in Newport, OR which homeports NOAA's Pacific Fleet, tasked with important data collection activities to protect marine mammals, manage commercial fish stocks, and keep mariners safe. HMTF dollars also ensure our U.S. farmers are able to remain competitive by keeping channels like the Lower Columbia River fully maintained and open for business. Because of the HMTF dollars directed to this project, it remains number one for U.S. wheat exports and the third largest grain export gateway in the world.

The Committee's dedication to resolving the issues around HMTF spending is very much appreciated by PNWA and we know that we would not be where we are today - at 91% full spending - if it weren't for the Committee's past efforts. In addition, the small ports set aside has been a lifeline for our emerging harbors, ensuring that they have a predictable level of funding for their projects. Furthermore, the \$50 million for donor and energy transfer ports has provided some balance for those areas that are experiencing a competitive disadvantage due to the HMTF.

We thank you for continuing the effort to appropriately fund federal navigation infrastructure. PNWA strongly supports H.R. 2440, and encourages speedy passage of this legislation in the House of Representatives in 2019.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Meira*

Kristin Meira  
Executive Director, PNWA

4224 NE Holley Street, Suite 325  
Portland, OR 97213

Telephone: 503-234-8150  
Fax: 503-234-8155

*Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund bill* - to the chairs and ranking members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and its Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.

The bill is likely to be considered in the House on Oct. 28 under suspension of the rules, which would require 2/3 support in order to pass.

The Committee staff were very appreciative of PNWA and its members' effort to show strong support for this important bill.

## Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding now available

Great news - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now offering over \$900,000 in grants to reduce toxics throughout the Columbia River Basin. PNWA played a big role in getting this program authorized and funded, and we are very proud to see it finally coming to fruition. Applications are due Dec. 20.



Learn more about the grant program and how to apply at <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program>.

## Grays Harbor's Gary Nelson named AAPA chairman



PNWA offers our congratulations and best wishes to Gary Nelson (right), executive director for the Port of Grays Harbor in Aberdeen, WA, for his installation on Oct. 16 as the 2019-20 chairman of the board for the American Association of Port Authorities. The event took place during a membership meeting at AAPA's Annual Convention and Expo in Norfolk, VA. We're excited to see our Northwest coastal port interests represented at the highest levels of the organization.

Learn more at <https://portofgraysharbor.com/news/2019/Nelson-begins-term-as-Chairman-of-American-Association-of-Port-Authorities.php>

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## PNWA joins AAPA, others in letter calling for swift passage of Energy and Water Development appropriations

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We've joined AAPA and other supporters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation program in sending a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, urging them to ensure the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is passed in the Senate, conferenced with the House, and enacted into law before expiration of the current Continuing Resolution on Nov. 21.



In a joint letter to the committees' chairs and ranking members, we and our partners argued that continuing resolutions delay seasonally sensitive work, as well as the start and completion of new construction projects, preventing navigation users and the Nation as a whole from realizing the economic growth associated with these projects.

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## Out and about with PNWA

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Executive Director Kristin Meira participated in a public policy lecture with former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts (left) at Portland State University's Mark O. Hatfield School of Government on Oct. 23.

Kristin also gave a presentation to recently appointed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district commanders and other leaders on Oct. 25.

