



July 8, 2011

The Hon. Bob Gibbs  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Tim Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Dear Rep. Bishop:

The Water Resources Coalition (WRC) is pleased to write in strong support of the enactment of H.R. 104, the Realize America's Maritime Promise Act, which has been introduced by Rep. Boustany and co-sponsored by more than 100 members of the House of Representatives. The bill would require the total budget resources for expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) for harbor maintenance programs to equal the level of receipts plus interest credited to the HMTF for that fiscal year.

The nation has underfunded essential water resources infrastructure systems for many years. This trend may well result in future system failures and the expenditure of tens of billions of dollars to rebuild what could have been built more economically in the first instance. Our ports and harbors require constant dredging to maintain their authorized levels in order to preserve America's trade competitiveness.

In FY 2012, the HMTF balance will be an estimated at \$6.1 billion. The administration is requesting \$732 million in FY 2012 for the O&M of channels and harbors—equal to 45 percent of the anticipated FY 2012 revenues and to about eight percent of the fund's anticipated year-end balance. The WRC believes enactment of H.R. 104 would support an FY 2012 appropriation of \$1.597 billion—more than twice the administration's proposal—for operations and maintenance of harbors. This investment level is vitally necessary, and we urge passage of the Boustany bill.

Sincerely,

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**improve, prevent, save**  
[www.waterresourcescoalition.org](http://www.waterresourcescoalition.org)

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