



March 1, 2017

Chairman Marvin Abney
House Committee On Finance
Room 35, State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for Budget Article 16, Section 4: Funding for Confined Aquatic Dredged Material Disposal Cells and Maintenance Dredging of the Providence River and Harbor Shipping Channel

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Committee On Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Budget Article 16, Section 4 which would appropriate \$10.5 million for the construction of a new Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cell critical to the upcoming maintenance dredging of the Providence River and Harbor Shipping Channel.

The Providence Working Waterfront Alliance is dedicated to promoting the Port of Providence as a vital economic engine for the City of Providence, the State of Rhode Island, and our wider region. Providence's water-dependent terminals and nearby industrial businesses generate hundreds of millions of dollars in total economic impact, supply the region's energy, provide hundreds of good paying blue collar jobs, and thousands more related jobs.

The majority of this economic activity is directly facilitated by Providence Harbor's 40 foot deep-water channel. The channel was last dredged in 2003 and maintenance dredging will be required in the near future to protect this critical infrastructure asset for our state.

Appropriating \$10.5 million for the construction of a new CAD cell to receive dredged sediments is a smart and necessary investment. This new CAD cell will be located in Providence Harbor, therefore making it convenient and more cost effective for area marine terminals to conduct maintenance dredging of their own berths. Indeed, area terminals have utilized the existing CAD cells in recent years.

This appropriation will also leverage a 65% cost share from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers towards the total cost of the Providence River and Harbor Shipping Channel maintenance dredging project.

For all of these reasons, we urge your support for Budget Article 16, Section 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher D. Hunter".

Christopher D. Hunter
Executive Director