

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



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HARBOR DREDGING FUNDS APPROVED BY U.S. HOUSE

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – Funding to dredge the Port of Green Bay and other port facilities in Northeast Wisconsin has cleared a major hurdle in Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$1.46 million to dredge the Green Bay Harbor. The funding was included in the Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act, at the request of U.S. Rep. Steve Kagen, M.D.

“The economic impact of the Port is significant,” said Brown County Executive Tom Hinz at a Friday news conference in Green Bay. “Funding for dredging will go a long way to returning our port operations to where they need to be in terms of authorized channel width and depth.”

Funding is also included in the Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act for the Kewaunee Harbor (\$430,000) and for the Sturgeon Bay Harbor and Lake Michigan Ship Canal (\$630,000).

“Working together, we are building a better future for everyone in Northeast Wisconsin,” Kagen said. “Whether you work in agriculture, forestry, or manufacturing – or serve those who do – your livelihood depends on the success of our harbors.”

Port Manager Dean Haen says the dredging is needed to maintain the economic vitality of the Port, which has an annual economic impact of \$88 million. “Removing backlogged sediment from the Port’s navigational channel will increase the cost efficiencies of the cargo ships and provide safer navigation,” Haen said

The Port of Green Bay has a congressionally-authorized outer channel width of 500 feet. In some locations, the width is now less than 100 feet. “Some ships are refusing to enter our Port, or are bringing in substantially less cargo, for fear of grounding,” Haen added.

The measure will now go to the U.S. Senate for approval.

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