July 9, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
209 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Inclusion of Expanding Uses of Advance Maintenance Authority in WRDA Reauthorization

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Chairwoman Napolitano, Ranking Member Graves and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of the Florida Ports Council, we thank you for your leadership and continued efforts to support and enhance the economic growth and job impacts at our nation’s seaports. As you know, seaports positively affect every state and resident. Florida’s seaports alone generate and support a vast array of commerce. Florida’s seaports have a $117.6 billion economic impact on the state and account for more than 900,000 direct and indirect jobs. Constructing and maintaining adequate navigational harbors ensures that Florida’s seaports have the capacity and efficiency to support these jobs and economic activity in our state and beyond.

With respect to current WRDA Reauthorization efforts by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Florida Ports Council supports the request by the Ports of Tampa Bay and Palm Beach for enhanced uses of the Army Corps’ advance maintenance authorities. The limited policy change will enable both Ports to maximize economic benefits and facilitate trade growth during this period of economic recovery.

Please see attached, a copy of the congressional letter from the members of the Tampa Bay and Palm Beach delegations.

Thank you for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Doug Wheeler
President & CEO
Florida Ports Council