

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2404

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman, Committee on  
Appropriations  
The U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Appropriations  
The U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

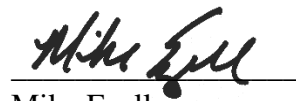
I am requesting funding for a project in fiscal year 2025 (FY2025). The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District located at P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628. The funding would be used to continue the feasibility study to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel to the Port of Gulfport.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Port of Gulfport is one of eighteen Strategic Seaports in the United States. A deeper and wider channel into Gulfport would enhance national security by expanding the size and number of military vessels that can utilize the port. Additionally, in recent decades, maritime freight transportation has trended towards larger, deeper-draft vessels to increase efficiency in cargo operations. Average vessel size to the Gulf of Mexico is 6,300 TEU and continues to increase. However, the maximum vessel size for Gulfport is 2,602 TEU at the current authorized depth. Bigger ships would bring more cargo which would demand more labor and create jobs in Mississippi. The Mississippi State Port Authority is also matching one hundred percent of the federally appropriated money, for a 50/50 cost share on the entire project, which began in FY2023.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA; P.L. 113-121, 33 U.S.C. §2282d).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress