



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

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For More Information Contact:

PATRICIA CARDENAS
Communications Director
Dir. Line: 361.885.6124
Cell: 361.816.3621
patricia@pocca.com

Bi-Partisan WRRDA Legislation Successfully Passes U.S. House of Representatives

“Port Infrastructure Provides Edge for a Competitive U.S. Economy”

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, USA – Port Corpus Christi lauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing critical water resources development legislation. The House passed the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) by a vote of 412-4. WRRDA was drafted by a bipartisan committee whom negotiated the bill to the floor of Congress last week. The bipartisan WRRDA legislation intends to cut federal red tape and bureaucracy, streamline infrastructure project delivery process, foster fiscal responsibility, and strengthen our water transportation networks to promote our United States’ competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth.

WRRDA will facilitate needed infrastructure improvements at Port Corpus Christi. In particular, the legislation includes an authorization by the Secretary of the Army to increase the total project cost of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project. The much needed navigation and ecosystem improvements include channel widening and deepening from 45 feet to 52 feet deep; adding barge shelves; and creating approximately 1000 acres of shallow water habitat utilizing beneficial use dredge material.

In addition, the legislation contains much needed program reforms such as streamlining the Corps process, project acceleration and construction and sets an increasing target of appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) beginning in FY 2015, with 100% of collected HMTF revenues being spent on operations and maintenance of ports by FY2025. The HMTF will help maintain our nation’s shipping channels including the Corpus Christi Ship Channel and La Quinta Ship Channel.

“Texas is booming from new oil and gas technologies. Our waterways are expected to move over 766 million tons of cargo by 2030, making it critical that we strengthen the infrastructure of our port facilities and improve our waterways. Today’s passage of the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) accomplishes this and more – creating jobs, strengthening our transportation networks, and supporting Texas’ economic growth today and for the future, ” **says Blake Farenthold; Congressman.**

“The bipartisan effort to pass WRRDA legislation; critical for the prosperity of the United States via our nations sea ports; will help Port Corpus Christi maintain the deep-water access that is vital to world trade; while simultaneously creating life supporting habitat. As our port continues to grow as an energy hub of the United States, maintaining our seaborne transportation routes remains crucial...”, says **Judy Hawley; Port Corpus Christi Commission Chair.**

About Port Corpus Christi

As the primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is the 5th largest port in the United States in total tonnage. The Port’s mission statement is to “serve as a regional economic development catalyst while protecting and enhancing its existing industrial base and simultaneously working to diversify its international maritime cargo business.” Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, with a straight, 45’ deep channel, the Port provides quick access to the Gulf and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation with on-site and direct connections to three Class-1 railroads and uncongested interstate and state highways. The Port is protected by a state-of-the-art security department and an award-winning Environmental Management System. With outstanding management and operations staff, Port Corpus Christi is clearly “The Port of the Lone Star State.”

<http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com/>

*Port Corpus Christi is a member of **START (South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade)**, a collaborative effort that highlights business opportunities in South Texas in the manufacturing, energy, aerospace, international trade, military and other sectors and the related strategic support provided by Port San Antonio, Port Corpus Christi and Port Laredo. <http://www.southtexastrade.com/>*

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