

**Member Day Testimony**  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
May 25, 2022

- Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson, I thank you both for providing me with this opportunity to speak on behalf of my priorities for this year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
- I have three requests.
- My first request is that you appropriate \$157 million in funding to the Port of Corpus Christi's Channel Improvement Project.
- This is not just an ask from me: it's an ask from the President, as this amount was included in the President's FY 2023 Budget Request.
- The Port of Corpus Christi is our nation's largest seaport by revenue tonnage and is the largest exporter of clean natural gas in the United States.
- The Channel Improvement Project will deepen and widen the Port's ship channel to accommodate larger ships.
- This translates into larger shipments, giving the U.S. the ability to export more to our trading partners overseas.
- Two other requests that are included in the President's Budget Request deal with operation and maintenance funding.
- The first is nearly \$7 million to dredge the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway's Channel to Victoria.
- The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway stretches 1,100 miles from Brownsville, TX to St. Marks, Florida.
- The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway serves as an alternative option for commerce, reducing congestion along highways and rail systems.

- In my district, the Port of Victoria relies on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to transport goods like steel, agricultural goods, and energy to other states.
- Regular dredging of this channel is crucial for businesses in my district.
- Finally, I would like for the committee to include the President's request of nearly \$8 million for the Matagorda Ship Channel.
- This ship channel specializes in the transportation of petrochemical products and agricultural fertilizer.
- The draft and wave patterns vary considerably across the ship channel, impairing the channel's navigability and increasing the need for regular dredging of the channel.
- Our ports serve as the gateway to fuel, fertilizer, and other critical resources.
- As electricity and fuel prices increase in the U.S. and around the world, our ports stand ready to respond to this unprecedented time.
- It is important that this year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill recognizes the importance of our ports through thoughtful investment.
- I hope that the Committee will include my three requests this year's bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.