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.