

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

JOHN WEINFURTER
CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

FREDERICK W. CLARK
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
BOSTON

E-mail: jmoakley@hr.house.gov

URL: <http://www.house.gov/moakley/welcome.html>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2109

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 235 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8273
FAX: (202) 225-3984
- WORLD TRADE CENTER
SUITE 220
BOSTON, MA 02210
(617) 565-2920
(617) 439-5460
FAX: (617) 439-5157
- 4 COURT STREET
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 824-6676
FAX: (508) 880-3520
- BROCKTON FEDERAL BUILDING
166 MAIN STREET
BROCKTON, MA 02401
(508) 586-5555
FAX: (508) 580-4692

June 3, 1996

The Honorable John T. Myers
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Energy and Water
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to you to request \$18.7 million in funding for the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project.

We understand the many difficult choices you face as you deliberate funding levels for the FY97 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, but we believe the Boston Harbor Improvement Project deserves your support for a number of reasons.

The cost of the Boston project is expected to total \$73.2 million. Of this amount, \$30.5 million is for deepening the federal navigation channels, \$36.4 million is for maintenance dredging of those same channels, and \$6.3 million is for deepening of private berths. However, unlike many other localities with requests before the Subcommittee, Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has obtained financing for the entire project's non-federal share of \$28.1 million. Recently, Governor Weld signed legislation to provide up to \$15 million of that cost through the issuance of state-backed bonds. In addition, Massport has committed \$10 million of its authority-generated revenue to the project and has commitments from the remaining \$3.1 million from private berth owners. Funds for the maintenance will be drawn from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which is financed by shippers who utilize the nation's port facilities.

The Boston Project is the result of a planning process that has created an environmentally sound and cost-efficient method for disposing of contaminated dredged material. This process has won the endorsement of local environmental groups, federal and state regulatory authorities, as well as members of the Massachusetts State Legislature and Congressional Delegation. Boston's use of in-channel disposal for its dredged material has been widely


recognized as a solution to the problems associated with ocean disposal and may serve as a model for future dredging projects.

The Port of Boston plays a key role for all of New England by serving as an economic catalyst for the region. Operations at the port are responsible for more than 9,000 maritime related jobs and contribute hundreds of million of dollars annually to the economy. If the Port is to remain competitive it must deepen its channels and berths. If this is not done, ships will either bypass Boston altogether or continue to be forced to wait for high tides in order to safely enter the harbor.

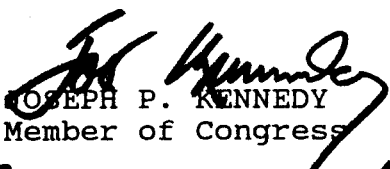
As you move to mark-up the FY97 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we would greatly appreciate your support of the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project. Should an earmark for the entire federal commitment be provided for the project in this year's bill, construction will be able to start early next spring and finish some 18 months later. In addition, providing funding this year would also ensure that project costs do not increase and environmental assessments do not become dated.

Thank you in advance for you consideration of this project.

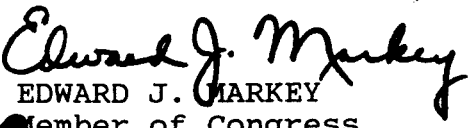
Sincerely,



JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY
Member of Congress



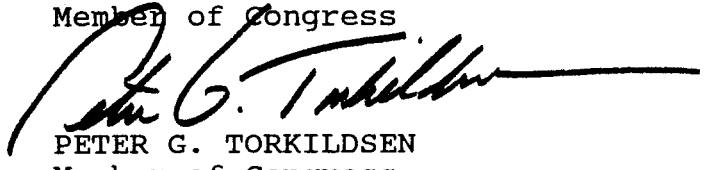
EDWARD J. MARKEY
Member of Congress




BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress



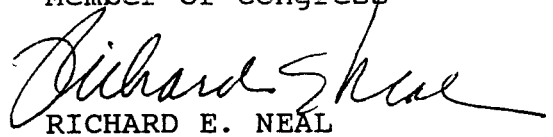
MARTIN T. MEEHAN
Member of Congress



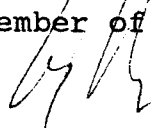
PETER G. TORKILDSSEN
Member of Congress



JOHN W. OLVER
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



GERRY E. STUDDS
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Tom Bevill