



Maine Lobstermen's Union  
Portland Working Waterfront Group

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Maine Lobstering Union Local 207, I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic value of the lobstering economy and the working waterfront are severely threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. More than seven decades of silt buildup has closed off hundreds of linear feet of vessel tie-up and timely access to the waterfront facilities we rely on for safely and efficiently landing and shipping our product.

The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that the iconic Maine lobstering economy will face critical, insurmountable hardships and will no longer be a part of Maine's most economically feasible shipping port. Direct access to local and international markets alike is essential to the quality of our product and the viability of the lobster industry.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, pier owners will not invest in shoreside improvements that keep our industry in step with the global economy. The Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project addresses the concerns of commercial fishermen, their small businesses, and their families, on whom the working waterfront depends and who the working waterfront directly affects. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only make our piers functional once again but will also increase their value to the local economy.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project

sponsors, the community at large, and the working waterfront are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last piece of funding has been allocated.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and iconic lobstering industry to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W Coppersmith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William Coppersmith  
President  
Maine Lobstering Union Local 207  
Portland Working Waterfront Group