## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

Ms. Robyn S. Colosimo, P.E. Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army U.S. Department of Defense 108 Army Pentagon Washington, DC 20310 Lieutenant General William H. Graham Chief of Engineers and Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20314

## **RE: FY2025 USACE Work Plan Funding**

Dear Acting Secretary Colosimo and Lieutenant General Graham,

As you prepare a work plan for allocating FY2025 funding for water resource projects around the nation, we ask that you strongly consider providing adequate funding to the Ports of Savannah and Brunswick to accomplish the following:

- Study the deepening and widening of Savannah Harbor, authorized in WRDA 2024, to address limitations in the current project depth and growing global fleet of larger vessels;
- Ensure the Brunswick Harbor Modifications project, authorized in WRDA 2022 and fully-funded in the FY2024 USACE Work Plan, has sufficient funding to address current, yet minimal, project cost-overruns; and
- Maintaining Brunswick Harbor and Savannah Harbor to their authorized width and depth to ensure safe and reliable vessel traffic.

Georgia's port facilities in Brunswick and Savannah are vital supply chain conduits, job creators, and economic engines for Georgia and the United States. Driven by a steady increase in containerized traffic, the Port of Savannah is home to the largest contiguous container terminal in North America, while the Port of Brunswick stands alone as the nation's largest and busiest automotive port. As drivers of local and global commerce, it is imperative that the needs of Georgia's ports continue to be met by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and America's dredging and maritime construction industry.

Over the past three years, we have collectively fought to deliver historic investments and authorizations for the Ports of Savannah and Brunswick. This includes modifying an underlying Savannah Harbor study authorization in the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 to allow for greater channel depth and width, securing MARAD and INFRA grants to increase both automotive and agricultural capacity at the Port of Brunswick, receipt of appropriated funding for operations and maintenance at both ports and for the construction of the Brunswick Harbor Modifications project. And while an additional \$26 million to operate and maintain the Port of

Brunswick at peak capacity and efficiency was provided, the Corps was unable to successfully award a contract leaving Brunswick Harbor inadequately maintained to its authorized width and depth for the 15th consecutive year.

We urge you take advantage of available FY2025 discretionary funding to deliver safe and reliable harbors for Georgia and the nation, as these critical projects are worthy of prioritization and your full and immediate attention. Our offices and the Georgia Ports Authority remain eager to assist your team and provide the necessary support to achieve this shared goal.

Sincerely,

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

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Member of Congress

Raphael Warnock United States Senator

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

Mike Collins

Member of Congress

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David Scott

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