



Harbor Funding Concept

Federal Legislation on Remote and Subsistence Harbors

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Current Army Corps Harbor Program

- Scored based on “NED” – National Economic Determination
- President’s FY13 budget had NO construction funding for Corps AK Civil Works Projects
- OMB looks for scores in the 5-1 range or better.
- US urban ports with high volume of container traffic score much higher than Alaska projects.
- Corps scoring does not allow inclusion of economic benefits of tourism
- Alaska projects lucky to score higher than 1-1 for NED





Current Corps Scoring Criteria

1. Public health and safety of the local community, including access to facilities designed to protect public health and safety;
2. Access to natural resources for subsistence purposes;
3. Local and regional economic opportunities;
4. Welfare of the local population; and
5. Social and cultural value to the community.



Proposed Changes

- This is a re-write of Senator Inouye's proposal to the Environment and Public Works Committee for this WRDA cycle last year.
- It amends 33 USC 2242, the Remote and Subsistence Harbor provision for Hawaii and the Island Territories.
- It eliminates the "proximity" requirements and adds Alaska.
- Proposes to allow the Secretary to move forward with a study, new construction, or a project modification without returning to Congress for a project-specific authorization.
- The current factors used to justify moving forward remain in the existing law.



Changes Continued

- All rural Alaska harbor projects would be justified based on these qualitative criteria, rather than competing with urban areas with a scoring system rigged for large volume traffic.
- The Pacific Ocean Division communities would begin to compete based on need thru the Army Corps.
- Most importantly: the NED would be waived under this provision (the cost shares under existing law would remain the same).



DRAFT WRDA BILL LANGUAGE

Sec. _____. REMOTE AND SUBSISTENCE HARBORS

Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may investigate, newly construct, or modify an existing water project in the non-contiguous States and Territories of the United States on a finding of Federal interest based on the benefits set forth in subsection (b) of this section (among other factors), without regard to whether the project is justified by national economic development benefits”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out projects initiated by the Secretary under this section not more than \$50,000,000 per fiscal year. Funding appropriated pursuant to this authorization may be used to investigate new projects or project modifications, and initiate new projects or project modifications without regard to a project-specific new start appropriation



Conclusion

- There are a lot of growing needs in the rural, water-dependent communities coastal areas of Alaska.
- Congress and the Administration need to look at Alaska collectively, rather than on an individual port basis.
- We need to assert that there is a strong national interest in a regional system of small ports and harbors in the Pacific.
- Next step is for communities, SEC and other stakeholders to ask the Congressional Delegation to sponsor the language change
- Will need to continually advocate for program funding

Thank you!

- If there is no objection, Southeast Conference will pursue this course of action and encourage members to take individual and collective measures to enact proposed legislation.
- Please keep SEC informed as steps are taken locally on this initiative.



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