

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FULL COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
WATER, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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

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March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding to secure dredged material sites to sustain waterway access in Securing Dredged Material Sites in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, located at 2959 Potato Neck Road, Port Haywood, VA 23138. The funding would be used for allows the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) to acquire land for the storage of dredge material, a critical component of maintenance dredging that ensures the navigability of the Middle Peninsula's 120 shallow-draft channels that support the region's working waterfronts, recreational boating economies, and property values associated with water access in Virginia's First Congressional District.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because maintaining shallow-water channels supports safe navigation and commerce while strengthening coastal communities' tax base and their ability to respond to shoreline erosion and coastal flooding. Ensuring shallow channels remain accessible strengthens coastal Virginia as a place to live and recreate on the water, ensuring property values and real estate revenues grow over time. Dredging also supports coastal resilience through the beneficial reuse of dredge material to strengthen shorelines against erosion and flooding and restore coastal habitat; however, not all dredge material is suitable for shoreline stabilization. This project provides funding to purchase upland storage sites for such material.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman

Member of Congress