



Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC
P.O. Box 698 Deer Park, Texas 77536-0698
FAX (281) 884-0399
(281) 884-0300

Via telefax 202-225-5241

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Pete Olson
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

I wish to thank you for your continued support for the maintenance of the Houston Ship Channel. The Port of Houston is a critical economic engine for the United States. The activity at the port is responsible for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic impact. Maintaining the Houston Ship Channel in a proper way is imperative to protecting these economic benefits.

The channel is also integral to our nation's energy security as host to some of the largest refineries in the United States and second largest petrochemical complex in the world.

Intercontinental Terminals Company is located on the Houston Ship Channel. Every year we handle approximately 700 ships; 3,500 barges; 12,000 railcars and 24,000 trucks. The channel is critical to our industry and its operations. Any limitations on the waterway related to insufficient depth of the channel, like draft restrictions, directly impacts our industry's ability to efficiently deliver goods and commerce. Ultimately, this is reflected in increased costs in the marketplace.

Federal funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adequately maintain the ship channel has fallen to below half of the identified needs. In this time of tight budgets, it is imperative for the federal government to spend taxpayer dollars where they will do the most good. Maintaining the Houston Ship Channel is a worthwhile investment, with a return of \$2.30 for every federal dollar invested.

Therefore, I urge you to support \$58.350 million in Construction General and \$30.905 million for Operations and Maintenance accounts for the Houston Ship Channel in the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations.

Your efforts in Congress, this year as in past years, to maintain the economic health of our region and the health of the Houston Ship Channel are greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Bernt A. Netland
President & CEO