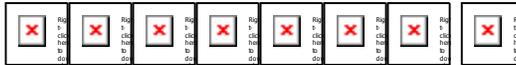


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**From:** South Carolina Ports Authority <scspainfo@scspa.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 3:09 PM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** U.S. House Passes Bill Moving Charleston Harbor Deepening Project Closer to Construction

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. House Passes Compromise Water Infrastructure Improvement  
for the Nation Act**

*Bill includes construction authorization for Charleston Harbor Deepening Project*

**CHARLESTON, SC - December 8, 2016** - Today's passage of S.612, the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN), formerly known as Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), by the U.S. House of Representatives, moves the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project closer to securing the authorization necessary to begin construction.

"We applaud the House for passing this legislation before the end of the year, which is critical to modernizing ports and port-related infrastructure across the country," said Jim Newsome, SCPA President and CEO. "The South Carolina Delegation worked extremely hard to move this bill forward. Thanks to their support, we are well-positioned to be the deepest harbor on the East Coast by the end of the decade. We remain hopeful that the U.S. Senate will vote and send it to the President for signature in the coming days."

The WIIN Act, which passed the House by a vote of 360-61, now goes to the Senate for consideration.

"Today's action in the House is incredibly important to South Carolina and the nation," said SCPA Board Chairman Pat McKinney. "Members of our delegation have worked tirelessly to ensure the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project remains on track, and we are deeply appreciative of their continued support."

The Charleston Harbor Deepening Project was formally recommended for Congressional authorization in January with the issuance of the Record of

Decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). The project has moved expeditiously through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers SMART Planning process and received strong support by all levels of government. In 2012 the S.C. General Assembly set aside \$300 million for the state share of the project, and it was expedited by the Administration as a "We Can't Wait" initiative.

Upon completion, the project will deepen the Charleston Harbor to 54 feet at the entrance channel and 52 feet in the harbor.

***About South Carolina Ports Authority***

South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA), established by the state's General Assembly in 1942, owns and operates public seaport facilities in Charleston, Georgetown and Greer. In 2015 SCPA handled international commerce valued at more than \$74 billion while receiving no direct taxpayer subsidy. An economic development engine for the state, Port operations facilitate 187,200 statewide jobs and generate nearly \$53 billion annual economic activity. Home to the Southeast's deepest port, SCPA is the industry leader in delivering speed-to-market, seamless processes and flexibility to ensure reliable operations, big ship handling, efficient market reach and environmental responsibility. For more information on SCPA, please visit [www.scspace.com](http://www.scspace.com).

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