

Legislative Committee & Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

1. Priorities:

- Continue to support Upper Ohio River Navigation System & Lower Mon Projects
- Oppose additional taxation, tolling, and lockage fees
- Fully utilize and draw down funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund
- ***Support initiative that navigation projects identified as “funded to completion” with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding should continue to be 100% funded from the General Treasury -- not cost-shared -- consistent with Congressional intent.***

2. Congressional Appropriations

- Request submitted to Congress for additional funding needed for the Lower Mon Project
- US House Appropriations Committee approved their bill on June 22 and the US Senate Appropriations Committee passed their bill on July 20

3. Water Resources Development Act of 2024

4. PA State Budget

- **\$45.4 billion budget package signed into law August 3**
 - Boosts education funding by over \$700 million — a more than 8% increase over last year’s budget
 - 11% funding increase for the Department of Environmental Protection to clear permitting backlogs and add staff for administrative work
 - Increases access to Apprenticeships & Vocational and Technical Education

PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:

1. United States Marine Highway Program – *Application is pending and being reviewed by USDOT*

- Expect decision next week

2. Past Events

- Beaver County Chamber of Commerce’s Legislative Cruise on the Gateway Clipper was held on Wednesday, July 26
- Allegheny River Summit follow-up meeting held by USACE on August 1
- USACE Change of Command ceremony on August 4

3. Future Events

- **WCI is holding its annual media trip to Pittsburgh on August 9-11**, in conjunction with the Montgomery Lock groundbreaking ceremony
- Allegheny River initiative – PortPitt / SPC taking the lead
- Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce DC Fly-in September 13 & 14

END