

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

1. **Thank you again to WAP** for hosting on September 14th the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University's class ***"Our 3 Rivers: Key To Quality Of Life & Our Economy"*** and to WAP and WAP members who contributed to making this class and the entire six classes of this continuing education program for adult learners a success!
2. **PortPitt** recently hosted a Leadership Pittsburgh class, and roundtable discussions with the two candidates running for Congressman Conor Lamb's seat. PortPitt was also the main sponsor for the annual Beaver Chamber of Commerce Cong. Bkfst on 10/28 with Rep. Lamb.
3. **Water Resources Development Act of 2022**
 - U.S. Senate passed their WRDA bill on July 28th by a 93 – 1 vote
 - Includes cost-share adjustment from current 65 % General Funds / 35% IWTF to 75% / 25% for construction and major rehab projects
 - Contains language to not sunset timeline for this cost-share change
 - U.S. House passed their WRDA bill on June 8th by a vote of 384-37
 - House bill does not contain 75/25 cost-share change but local Reps have signed a letter in support
 - Next step – House and Senate staff currently negotiating the two bills and effort is underway to include the WRDA bill as part of the National Defense Authorization Act
 - Port of Pittsburgh Commission's priorities remain:
 - Upper Ohio River Navigation System Project & Lower Mon Project
 - Oppose additional taxation, tolling, lockage fees & support 75/25 cost-share
 - Reassess how the USACE conducts their Benefit-Cost Analysis
4. **Annual Federal Energy & Water Appropriations Funding**
 - Federal Fiscal Year ended September 30th
 - Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government funded through December 16th and the President signed it
5. **Inland Waterways User Board Meeting took place on August 16th**
 - Key take-away: inflation & supply chain issues causing cost over-runs
 - ***Lower Mon Project needs an additional \$109 million***
 - ***Montgomery Locks & Dam Project needs an additional \$200 million***
 - ***Will need our collective voice to advocate on this in the coming year!***
 - Next IWUB meeting is December 1st in Galveston, TX
6. **PA Senate Joint Committee hearing (Labor & Industry with Environmental Resources & Energy) was held in Pittsburgh on 10/14 on "The Importance of PA Waterways to Energy and Economic Development."** PortPitt hosted Gateway Clipper tour with industry & legislators on 10/13. A recording the hearing can be watched [here](#).
7. **Thank you to the USACE** for 10/11 event for Navigation Community on Elizabeth L/D.
8. **State Grant Opportunity**
 - PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund program is currently open. Visit [website](#) for more information and applications are ***due by 4:00 PM on Monday, November 14, 2022*** – contact Scott at PortPitt for more info if interested.

END