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WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio today announced that the House of Representatives approved legislation which includes funding for dredging south coast ports, including an additional \$500,000 in funds for a major maintenance report and analysis of the north jetty at the Port of Coos Bay. The funding, requested by DeFazio earlier this year, was included in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

Included in the bill approved today was funding for dredging operations at the following ports:

Port of Siuslaw: \$486,000
Port of Umpqua: \$979,000
Port of Coos Bay: \$4,689,000
Port of Bandon: \$275,000
Port of Orford: \$273,000
Port of Gold Beach: \$483,000
Port of Brookings Harbor: \$451,000

“Despite the tight budget year, I am pleased I was able to secure some funding for dredging operations at each of Oregon's south coast ports,” DeFazio said. “However, it falls far short of what is needed to adequately maintain safe and navigable channels at each of these ports. I cannot state too strongly the crucial role dredging plays in the economic livelihood of the region. I plan to work with my colleagues in the Senate to attempt to increase the funding for dredging operations on the Oregon coast.”

Oregon's coastal channels are heavily used by recreational boaters and commercial fisherman. The coastal channels have become the mainstays of communities dealing with declining employment in natural resource industries.

