



Senate of Pennsylvania

JUN 25 2012

Senator Jim Ferlo

38th Senatorial District

MEMO

Date: *June 25, 2012*
To: *All Senators*
From: *Senators Jim Ferlo and Kim Ward*
Subject: *Co-Sponsorship Request – Resolution: Capital Development Plan*

In the very near future, we will introduce a resolution commending the Port of Pittsburgh Commission (PPC) on its 20 years of existence and urging the Pennsylvania delegation to the US Congress to support a 20-year Capital Development Plan which would make much-needed improvements to southwestern Pennsylvania's river infrastructure.

Southwestern Pennsylvania's rivers have a long history as highways of commerce, and studies have shown that these industries maintain over 45,000 direct jobs and 217,000 total jobs in the region. However, many of the federally-owned locks and dams necessary for these industries are aging and obsolete - some having exceeded their design life by as much as 50 years - and plans to do the necessary work to maintain them have been stalled by lack of funding. This problem is not unique to Pennsylvania, and the PPC has joined with groups across the nation to urge the US Congress to approve a 20-year Capital Development Plan which would allow the increase of industry user fees in order to fund, among other projects, a new lock and dam in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Please join us in commending the PPC for two decades of work on behalf of the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania, and in urging the United States Congress to fund improvements that will sustain these vital industries in the future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please email Kate Roberts at kroberts@pasenate.com or call 787-6123.