

DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
MICHIGAN'S INTERMODAL GATEWAY

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GREAT LAKES APPROVED FOR FEDERAL FUNDS
TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION SYSTEM

DETROIT, JULY 19, 2000 - John Jamian, executive director of the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, commended Sen. Spencer Abraham (R- Mich.) for his efforts in securing federal funding for a comprehensive study on how to improve the Great Lakes navigation system. "Sen. Abraham has done an outstanding job in calling attention to the need for enhancements that will create business opportunities throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. It will be one of the most important long-term studies of the navigation system since the Seaway was completed in 1959," Jamian said. He added that "the study will help to identify critical areas for improvement and updating, as well as create opportunities for new maritime technology and vessel design."

The Port of Detroit will directly benefit from this study. With more than 8,500 direct and indirect port-related jobs, the economic benefit of improving the system will provide great opportunities for growth.

A senate panel approved funds in the amount of \$500,000 on July 13, 2000. The appropriation of the funds is pending their inclusion in the final Energy and Water Appropriations Bill in fiscal year 2001. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Office, will administer the study.

Shipments through the St. Lawrence Seaway are vital to the national economy. Detroit is directly linked by the Seaway to all world markets through the international port located on the Detroit and Rouge Rivers, 618 miles from the entrance to the Seaway. The Seaway is a bi-national waterway between the U.S. and Canada from the Port of Montreal to Lake Superior.