The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,  
United States Senator,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The Buffalo newspapers yesterday indicated that President Eisenhower's budget message would ask for $1,200,000,000 to continue deepening Buffalo's harbor during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1955. While it is gratifying to note that the President has included a Buffalo appropriation in his original message, the Division of the Port of Buffalo feels that the appropriation is not sufficient. It is less than the Army Engineers asked for by $300,000.

Since there have been years recently in which no appropriation was made, the present project is falling behind schedule. Even with this appropriation the project will only be thirty-three per cent completed. We feel that $3,000,000 a year is necessary to complete the project by 1959.

The Inner Harbor has, at the present time, insufficient depth to take care of our Great Lakes trade. This shallow water is extremely detrimental to the economy of the vital industries which are packed along the Buffalo River and City Ship Canal. Regardless of the fact that more water is needed for the St. Lawrence Seaway, Buffalo must have additional depth if it is to remain in a competitive position with the rest of the Great Lakes ports.

On December 20, 1954 I wrote you asking you to make whatever efforts you could to make sure that Buffalo was mentioned in the original budget request. I thank you for your prompt answer and for the work you did in securing this request. I am now asking you to do what you can, not only to have this appropriation approved but to have it increased, if it is at all possible. I feel sure that it can be demonstrated that Buffalo needs additional appropriation as much, or more so, than the City of Cleveland which was given over $5,000,000.

I would like, also, to draw your attention to the request which we made in our letter of December 20th, asking for a review of the 27' depth anticipated for the Buffalo Harbor in meeting the demands of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Here is the resolution we would like you to present so that this review may be eventuated in the spring of the year:

"RESOLVED by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives of the United States that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Article III, approved June 13, 1902, be and is hereby requested to review the reports on Buffalo Harbor, New York, submitted in House Document 352, 78th Congress, First Session, House of Representatives, with a view to determining if improvement of the South Outer Harbor is justified to a depth of 27 feet."
We would appreciate very much being kept informed on the progress of your efforts to obtain and increase our harbor appropriation, and would also like to request of you an opportunity to appear before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees when they meet to consider the President's budget requests.

Yours respectfully,

DIVISION OF THE PORT OF BUFFALO,

Dr. Marvin A. Rapp,
Consultant.

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