

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Jaime A. Pinkham
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General William H. Graham
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Acting Secretary Pinkham and Lieutenant General Graham:

On November 18, 2024, we wrote to express our deep concern regarding the inability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and America's dredging and maritime construction industry to perform maintenance dredging for the Brunswick Harbor during the available window before environmental restrictions on dredging take effect.

We continue to be alarmed by the failure to award this project and perform operation and maintenance dredging for the Brunswick Harbor and the costly project delays that will result from this collective failure.

The Port of Brunswick is vital to Georgia's economic growth and is poised to become the Nation's busiest automotive port in the near future.¹ The sustained success and future expansion of port operations relies on timely and effective dredging of the harbor. For this reason, we secured funding so the Corps had the resources necessary to dredge the Brunswick Harbor to its fully authorized depth and width for the first time in many years.

After multiple failed attempts to award an acceptable dredging contract, the Corps also appears unable to efficiently deploy reserve dredges to perform this critical mission.

This collective failure to execute a basic mission with ample funding provided by Congress raises serious concerns about the Corps' ability to effectively and collaboratively execute such projects in future years.

¹ Russ Bynum, *A Georgia Seaport Is Closing The Gap With Baltimore, The Top US Auto Port*, Associated Press (July 30, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/georgia-ports-automobiles-brunswick-47bd7e5cffa13c62a1606ee7385b583b>.

We respectfully request a response in writing, within one month, detailing the Corps' plans to prevent this failure from recurring, and we stand ready to assist the Corps in identifying solutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff".

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock".

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Cc: Brigadier General Daniel H. Hibner
Colonel Ronald Sturgeon