



United States House
1987-1993

C. THOMAS MCMILLEN

February 26, 2024

Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 375, Helen Bentley Port of Baltimore Naming Bill

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you in support of Senate Bill 156 to rename and codify in statute the Port of Baltimore to be the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.

Helen was elected to Congress in 1984 and I was elected 2 years later in 1986. It was an honor to serve with her and we often collaborated on issues affecting the Port of Baltimore. Our Congressional districts were adjacent to each surrounding the port—part of my district encompassed northern Anne Arundel County and her district in Baltimore County was across Baltimore harbor.

I vividly remember our delegation meetings when Helen was indefatigable and passionate in her support of the Port of Baltimore. She was tireless in promoting the port and we, as a delegation, were always willing to follow her.

Thanks to Helen, Maryland's deep channel is a major reason why the Port of Baltimore is well positioned to handle the largest ships in the world. She was tireless in her effort to pass legislation to dredge the Port of Baltimore to a depth of 50 feet making it passable for the world's largest oceangoing



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ships, and the first East Coast port to have that capacity. There is no better example of Helen's contribution to the Port of Baltimore and out state than when Governor Moore recently announced the Port of Baltimore in 2023 set a new record hauling \$80.8 billion of foreign cargo.

Helen was steadfast in her advocacy for the port and maritime interests. She was always working to enact legislation to strengthen the US maritime industry and make further investments in the Port of Baltimore.

Even after she left Congress, Helen continued to devote her energies to the Port of Baltimore

It is quite fitting for the Helen Bentley Port of Baltimore to be codified in statute, I strongly support the enactment of this legislation as a highly deserved recognition for Helen's 70 years of devotion to the Port of Baltimore and her success in making the Port of Baltimore one of the world's leading ports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Thomas McMillen".

C. Thomas McMillen
Member of Congress (Maryland 4th District from 1987-1993)