

South Florida Congressman Allen West, though no fan of federal spending, saluted a plan on Thursday to devote \$4.6 million for dredging Port Everglades, plus \$600,000 for a port feasibility study

Congressman Allen West

He also hailed word that the Army Corps of Engineers plans to spend \$460,000 this fiscal year for a Lake Worth Inlet feasibility study leading to expansion of the Port of Palm Beach.

While railing against the budget-busting ways of Congress, the tea party favorite from Plantation sees port spending as something that pays for itself.

"The Port Everglades dredging project is directly tied to the number of ships that can get in and out of South Florida and has a direct impact on commerce and the entire economy of the region," he said.

The spending was designated by the Army Corps as part of its dredging and maintenance work list, and port officials were quick to give West credit.

"The congressman's willingness to host a roundtable to pull together all of the decision makers at the same table was vital to our success," said Port Everglades Deputy Director Glenn Wiltshire. "Representative West facilitated the opportunity for people to ask and answer questions. I'm certain that was a factor in the Corps' decision to fund the Port Everglades maintenance dredging project, which is greatly needed."

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