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ONE MARITIME PLAZA – 3RD FLOOR – TOLEDO, OHIO 43604
Phone: (419) 255-3940 • Fax: (419) 255-2350 • www.glmf.org

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Midwest Energy Resources Company
The Port of Milwaukee
Western Great Lakes Pilots Association

GREATER WASHINGTON

American Great Lakes Ports Association
American Maritime Officers Service
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
K&L Gates, LLP
MEBA, AFL-CIO
Transportation Institute

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment &
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment &
Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Boxer and Ranking Members Rahall and Vitter:

Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) is the largest labor/management coalition ever assembled to promote shipping on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. We are very pleased to support House and Senate passage of the conference report on H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) and urge its immediate enactment into law. This comprehensive legislation includes a number of provisions that will improve the efficiency and reliability of vessel navigation on America's fourth seacoast, the Great Lakes.

We are pleased with the conference report's inclusion of increased target levels for spending Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues, direction to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage the harbors and waterways of the Great Lakes as a single, interdependent system, definition of, and funding for, the Great Lakes Navigation System, and increased emphasis on regional economic importance and decreased emphasis on annual port tonnage as factors for prioritizing annual harbor maintenance funding.

The GLMTF will continue to work with other inland and coastal navigation stakeholders, your Committees, and other Members of Congress to fully fund federal harbor maintenance and strengthen the WRRDA 2014 provisions regarding HMTF spending and the Great Lakes. Thank you again for your leadership in producing this bill and providing momentum for future WRRDA bills.

James H.I. Weakley
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2nd Vice President-Membership

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