



# Lake Carriers' Association

*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

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**JAMES H. I. WEAKLEY, PRESIDENT**

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May 16, 2014

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

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Member  
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 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:

On behalf of the owners and operators of the 57 large, United States-flag, self-propelled vessels and tug/barge units moving dry-bulk cargos on the Great Lakes and supporting the Midwest economy, the Lake Carriers Association (LCA) is 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.

LCA 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.

Sincerely,

James H. I. Weakley  
President

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***The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes***

AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY • ANDRIE, INC. • ARMSTRONG STEAMSHIP COMPANY • BELL STEAMSHIP COMPANY  
CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. • GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. • GREAT LAKES FLEET/KEY LAKES, INC. • INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC.  
THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY • KK INTEGRATED LOGISTICS • LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY • LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE  
PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING • SOO MARINE SUPPLY, INC. • UPPER LAKES TOWING COMPANY, INC. • VANENKEVORT TUG & BARGE INC.