



WATERWAYS
COUNCIL, INC.

December 6, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Gibbs and Ranking Members DeFazio and Napolitano:

The members of Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) thank you for your leadership and commitment to returning the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA), which was included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act to a biennial process.

America's inland waterways system includes 12,000 miles of commercially operated and maintained navigable channels that directly affect 38 states. The inland waterways system is tasked with transporting the nation's bulk commodities that keep America competitive in the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly way. In 2014, 604 million tons of commodities valued at \$232 billion transited the waterways, supporting 541,000 American jobs.

Passing this legislation in regular order is critical to ensuring waterways reliability in order to keep America competitive in foreign markets. WCI offers its full support of WIIN, and urges its final approval.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Toohey
President
Waterways Council, Inc.