



August 20, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Chairmen Shuster and Inhofe:

On behalf of Michelin North America, I write to urge September action on the 2016 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) pending in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

This legislation is of utmost importance to a number of states, including South Carolina where our North America headquarters and several facilities are located. Both versions of the bill include a critical construction authorization for dredging the Port of Charleston. The 52-foot depth is needed now to accommodate larger, neo-Panamax container ships required to travel 24-hours up and down the East coast. Without the authorization, this project – currently under budget and ahead of schedule – could quickly fall behind schedule, placing a huge burden on regional, national and even global commerce. With this authorization, the Port of Charleston will continue to be the Army Corps of Engineer's poster child for the new SMART Planning process, as well as become the deepest port on the East coast.

In South Carolina alone, the Port of Charleston facilitates nearly 200,000 jobs and generates about \$53 billion in economic activity annually. Michelin North America also relies on the Port of Charleston to support its operations throughout the southeast. The Port has many operational advantages and has been a great partner of Michelin's primarily because of its efficiency and velocity with the movement of containers and vessels. We believe the deepening of the Charleston Harbor is imperative to ensure that Charleston remains a main port of call for the neo-Panamax vessels and that Michelin remains competitive in the global marketplace.

Chairmen Inhofe and Shuster are to be commended for their leadership. Final action is needed in September to ensure the WRDA is passed for the region. Our nation cannot afford congressional inaction. If WRDA is not passed, jobs will be lost and the nation's overall GDP will suffer.

and efficient mark-ups of WRDA; however, the WRDA development project for our state and the entire WRDA – global commerce will be disrupted, jobs will

Thank you for your consideration and prompt action on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Pete Selleck  
Chairman and President  
Michelin North America

Michelin North America, Inc.

One Parkway South  
Post Office Box 19001  
Greenville, South Carolina 29602-9001