

December 7, 2016

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

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

Dear Chairmen Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Gibbs, and Ranking Member Napolitano:

Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals Association, Inc. (IRPT) writes to applaud you for your continued support and commitment to the nation's water resources infrastructure. We commend you for your focused attention and strong leadership in advancing the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

We commend you for several highlights of the WRDA 16 bill. We are pleased to see water resources legislation returning to regular order and addressing water infrastructure needs on a biennial cycle. We support the provision which provides non-federal sponsors a stronger voice in determining the authorization of studies and projects. We are also pleased with Section 122 that establishes a pilot program to carry out projects for the beneficial use of dredged material.

IRPT is a trade association for the nation's inland waterway, ports, and terminal professionals. Our mission is to provide a platform for river port and terminal professionals to improve their businesses and to inform policy makers on the economic impact and infrastructure needs of the inland waterways system.

On behalf of our Members nationwide, IRPT fully supports the passage of WRDA 2016 and we recognize this critical piece of legislation to positively impact the future of freight transportation in this country.

I serve as a Director for the Arkansas Basin District of the IRPT. Our company, Terral RiverService, Inc., operates on the mid and lower Mississippi River. It is imperative to our entire community and the surrounding areas of Northeast Louisiana that our