



September 28, 2016

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, introduced by Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA).

The nation's deepwater ports and inland waterways help keep transportation costs competitive and are an important means of transport for manufacturers and other industrial shippers. The waterways in particular move products and commodities now valued at \$232 billion annually, but unfortunately more than half of the inland waterways' lock chambers have exceeded their 50-year design life. Our nation needs a modern infrastructure that manufacturers can depend upon in order to remain competitive.

H.R. 5303 would authorize key studies and projects to advance navigation and modernize infrastructure on the waterways, ports and harbors through the Army Corps of Engineers. It would also bolster language making National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews for Army Corps projects more efficient and timely. Additionally, the legislation strengthens the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program to allow for public-private financing of critical water projects.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRDA) will help manufacturers and their employees that rely on ports and waterways to efficiently move goods by ensuring consistent and dependable federal investments. Without a remedy to address the system's long-term and well-identified deficiencies, U.S. companies will continue to be hamstrung, threatening jobs and growth.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 5303, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aric Newhouse'.

Aric Newhouse
Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations
National Association of Manufacturers

KEY MANUFACTURING VOTE LETTER

733 10th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001
P 202•637•3000 F 202•637•3182 www.nam.org