



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

May 19, 2014

**To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
Staff assigned to steel and/or water infrastructure issues**

**VOTE "YES" ON THE WATER RESOURCES, REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014
CONFERENCE REPORT**

Background: Marine transportation is critical to our nation's business supply chain and to the economic competitiveness of our nation as a whole, but legislation to enhance navigational infrastructure on our nation's waterways has not been considered since 2007. The steel industry relies heavily on seaports and inland waterways to move raw materials necessary for steelmaking, but also to move finished steel products to market. Our nation's seaports are heavily congested and not dredged to full capacity, while our inland waterways include obsolete and aging infrastructure that often results in costly delays. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, underinvestment in these two waterborne sectors threatens more than 1 million U.S. jobs and \$270 billion in U.S. exports by 2020. Reauthorization of a water resources development bill has not occurred since 2007 and is long overdue.

Situation: After overwhelming passage of water resources legislation by both the House and Senate, and many months of negotiations, House and Senate conferees have completed a Water Resources, Reform and Development Act of 2014 Conference Report. This long-awaited, bipartisan compromise will authorize funding for port dredging and improvements that will help ensure our nation remains globally competitive. It will enable the repair and replacement of aged inland waterways locks and dams for more efficient and cost-effective navigation and bring to fruition vital infrastructure needs such as safe drinking water.

Request: Please vote "yes" on the Water Resources, Reform and Development Act of 2014 Conference Report. This legislation was crafted in a model spirit of bipartisanship; and because it cuts red-tape, encourages private sector investments, and de-authorizes billions in old projects it will ensure that taxpayer investments deliver the most economic benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson".

Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO