



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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June 4, 2018

The Honorable
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Full House:

As the House begins consideration of H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA), I am writing to convey the American Farm Bureau Federation's support for passage of this important bill. Farm Bureau believes having an efficient and reliable inland waterway system linked to competitive ports is vital to America's ability to provide affordable agricultural products domestically and to compete internationally.

Given their ability to move large amounts of cargo, the nation's inland waterways are a strategic, economic and military resource. Over 60 percent of America's grain exports and many other important commodities such as fuel, coal and agricultural inputs also move through our inland waterway system. Due to this importance, Farm Bureau policy explicitly supports the maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure including the locks and dams system and other waterway infrastructure.

Construction, dredging and repairs to our vital marine transportation system will help ensure the reliability of the most affordable, energy efficient and environmentally-sustainable mode of transporting agricultural products. Farm Bureau urges you to vote in support of WRDA. Doing so will put America's inland waterways and port infrastructure on a solid and sustainable foundation to contribute to U.S. economic growth, jobs and global competitiveness for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zippy Duvall".

Zippy Duvall
President