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June 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Water Resources Development Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of GROWMARK and FS Cooperatives, I write to express our support for the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026*. We appreciate the Committee's work and attention to reauthorizing this biennial legislation that impacts America's inland waterways, ports, and the broader agricultural supply chains.

GROWMARK is an agricultural cooperative serving almost 400,000 customers across North America, providing agronomy, energy, facility engineering and construction, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services. Headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois, GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by member cooperatives. More information is available at GROWMARK.com.

The nation's waterways play a vital role in supporting American agriculture, providing a reliable route for transporting essential inputs to farms across the country. As the agricultural supply chain continues to face significant challenges and bottlenecks, farmers need timely investments in the modernization and rehabilitation of critical waterway infrastructure. Passage of the *Water Resources Development Act* is important in advancing these projects and ensuring our waterways remain a reliable and efficient link in the agricultural supply chain.

GROWMARK strongly supports several projects in the draft language. As a farmer-owned cooperative system, we depend on reliable infrastructure to serve our farmers and communities. We are pleased to see the significant investments in flood risk management across several states within our footprint, including Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri. These efforts will help safeguard agricultural land, protect crop yields, and reduce the detrimental impacts of flooding and runoff on rural communities.

In addition, our System is committed to continuing our practices in an environmentally responsible manner. We have proudly supported several ecosystem restoration initiatives and remain dedicated to investing in similar projects that directly benefit our waterways.

We recognize that investments are necessary in the inland waterway and navigation systems. We request that Congress further modernize the inland waterways by ensuring that critical projects

currently under construction are completed sooner and by providing sufficient funding to initiate construction on other authorized navigation priorities. This adjustment would accelerate system modernization and reduce countless project backlogs.

The GROWMARK and FS System was proudly awarded a grant through the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). However, the work does not stop there. We request that additional funding be included for PIDP to facilitate more projects that will benefit not only our system but also the many farmers, producers, and communities that rely on it.

Given the successful reauthorization over the last four Congresses, we are hopeful this legislation will continue on the same path. Investments in water resource projects remain critical as our nation modernizes and works to maintain and improve its waterways. We appreciate your continued support of the agriculture industry and look forward to seeing this legislation move forward.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles J. Spencer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Chuck Spencer
Executive Director, Government Relations
GROWMARK, Inc.