



LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



June 30, 2026

Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

The Lake Carriers' Association strongly supports the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2026 as introduced and urges quick passage of this critical piece of legislation that keeps Great Lakes ports and connecting channels open to marine navigation.

Since 1880, the Lake Carriers' Association has represented the U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet, which today can move more than 90 million tons of cargos annually that are the foundation of American industry, infrastructure, and energy: iron ore, stone, coal, cement, and other dry bulk materials such as grain, salt, and sand. Our members depend on a healthy and robust Great Lakes Navigation System, especially during the winter months when 20 percent of our vital cargo must reach manufacturing facilities in the Midwest.

Section 115 is a critical component of this bill as the Soo Locks are arguably the most important piece of navigation infrastructure in America. We must have the best employees maintaining and operating these locks which requires fair wages to attract and retain top notch talent in a remote location.

Thank you to the committee for the dedicated work getting this bill drafted and introduced.

Sincerely,

James H. I. Weakley
President
Lake Carriers' Association

