

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2167 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) strongly supports the Conference Report to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 and urges all members of the House of Representatives to support the legislation. While the members of NAPA are engaged in the business of constructing asphalt pavements for America, the inland waterway system is vital to the asphalt pavement contractors who use the inland waterways for the shipment of materials used in the construction and maintenance of the nation's highways.

As with the nation's highway system, previous generations have made critical investments in the inland waterway system to boost economic health and global competitiveness of the United States and improve overall quality of life. Unfortunately, investments have not kept pace with needs and as a result elements of the nation's inland waterways are outdated, overwhelmed, and in some places, eroding. Ninety-four percent of the locks on the Mississippi River are 50 years old or more. It is not uncommon for aggregate shipments to wait two or three days to get through the locks adding additional costs to the construction of roadways due to an outdated and inefficient waterway delivery system.

WRRDA is long overdue. It has been five years since Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out its mission to develop, maintain, and support the needs of our Nation's vital ports and waterways. The legislation strengthens oversight, transparency, and accountability while being fiscally responsible. WRRDA will provide more robust, innovative, and effective investment in our nation's oldest transportation mode.

American competitiveness, as well as the nation's highway material supply industry are dependent on a reliable, efficient marine transportation system, requiring significant capital investments in replacement locks, dredging, dams and levees. NAPA urges all members of the House of Representatives to act boldly and support the Conference Report to H.R. 3080.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Acott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Acott
President