



29 June 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

Thank you for your continued leadership in maintaining a biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and for including Section 101, which establishes an Office of Inland Navigation Construction Management. Creating this office within the Corps will strengthen oversight and accountability, reduce cost and schedule risks, and help ensure Congress achieves stronger returns on infrastructure investments.

I write in support of the House WRDA process and look forward to working with the Committee to address WCI's priority to clarify the definition of major rehabilitation for inland waterways construction—an issue that enjoys significant bipartisan support.

Currently, navigation users are the only contributors to the rehabilitation of inland waterways dams, despite the broad range of non-navigation benefits these facilities provide. These benefits include flood control, municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supply, hydropower generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat, among others. Clarifying that dam features qualify as major rehabilitation aligns with the federal responsibility to maintain infrastructure that serves national interests in public safety, commerce, and security.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing needed reforms to the Corps of Engineers and supporting the House WRDA process. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the Committee considers clarifying the definition of major rehabilitation for inland waterways construction.

Sincerely,

Tracy Zea
President/CEO
Waterways Council, Inc.