



**American  
Iron and Steel  
Institute**

**Steelgram**

Immediate Attention Requested

**December 9, 2024**

**To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives  
House staff assigned to steel and/or water infrastructure issues**

**SUPPORT S. 4367 – THE THOMAS R. CARPER  
WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024 (WRDA 2024)**

**Background:** The health and stability of our nation’s marine transportation system are critical to the economic competitiveness of the domestic steel industry. In particular, companies rely heavily on inland waterways, seaports, locks and dams for transporting raw materials to their plants and finished products to end users in the market. As such, it is essential that repairs and construction of important inland navigation projects be approved and completed as efficiently as possible.

**Situation:** The final version of S. 4367, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA 2024) is a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to authorize and fund key investments in critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) across the country. The bill includes funding for the construction and maintenance of ports, inland waterways, locks and dams. The final bill contains authorization for 21 new Corps projects and over 200 feasibility studies for eventual investments. These projects will further facilitate the operations of American waterways infrastructure, in addition to serving as important market opportunities for the use of domestic steel products. Importantly, WRDA 2024 also will modernize the inland waterways project cost-share formula to 75 percent from the general fund of the Treasury and 25 percent from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (from the previous 65/35 split). Doing so will facilitate the timely construction of important inland navigation projects that are critical to the steel industry and our customers.

**Request:** Please vote in support of S. 4367, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA 2024) when it is considered on the House floor this week. The WRDA legislation would facilitate critical investments in our nation’s waterborne transportation system and enhance the economic competitiveness of the domestic steel industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey  
President and CEO