



December 5, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Carper, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Capito, and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the American Soybean Association (ASA), we thank you for your work to maintain a strong domestic water infrastructure network and offer our support for final passage of the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*. The continued bipartisan commitment by the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to pass an on-time biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is greatly appreciated by U.S. soybean farmers.

ASA represents approximately 500,000 U.S. soybean farmers on domestic and international policy issues important to the soybean industry and has 26 affiliated state associations representing the 30 primary soybean-producing states. U.S. soybean growers have long been committed to producing the world's food, feed, fuel, and thousands of bioproducts in a sustainable and climate-smart way. As the nation's leading export crop, U.S. water infrastructure is critical to transporting soybeans to the market. While most soybeans rely on a multimodal system that includes rail and trucking, our inland waterways are the most cost-effective and fuel-efficient mode of transportation, and thus represents one of the most critical elements of our supply chain.

The 2024 WRDA bill includes an updated cost-share ratio to address the current backlog of authorized Inland Waterway Trust Fund (IWTF) projects—a top priority for U.S. soybean farmers. ASA applauds the WRDA Conference Committee for adopting this provision and creating parity with the cost-share ratio granted to coastal deep-draft navigation projects in 2016. While efforts are underway to modernize our inland waterways through investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and previous WRDA bills, this cost-share ratio adjustment will increase the efficiency of the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake and complete critical projects.

U.S. agriculture relies on the efficiency of the inland waterways system. The *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024* will drive significant investment towards the modernization of our waterway infrastructure. We thank you for your leadership and urge swift passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Gackle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Josh Gackle, President  
American Soybean Association