

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Boxer, Ranking Member Vitter, Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

The undersigned 82 organizations strongly support passage of a Water Resources Reform Development Act (WRRDA) and thank you for your strong bi-partisan efforts to secure an agreement. America's inland waterways system is a lynchpin of our economy, essential to creating and sustaining jobs. Our waterways are critical to the nation's intermodal transportation network, supply chain and a key component to growing U.S. exports. A well-functioning inland waterways system facilitates competition for American products around the world.

The inland waterways also provide capacity and the most cost-competitive transportation option for our bulk commodities:

- 60 percent of the nation's export-bound grain is transported on the inland waterways.
- An effective and efficient water transport system is essential to supply American farmers with fertilizer for spring and fall planting seasons.
- Farmers depend on our waterways' infrastructure to provide affordable agricultural products domestically and to compete internationally.
- De-icing salt for our roads and bridges enhances safety for motor vehicles and school buses to navigate ice roadways in winter.
- The soon to be completed Panama Canal expansion will create opportunities for increased American trade, but not if our channels are not dredged and our locks and dams are not functioning.
- American family-wage jobs depend on operational ports and inland waterways.
- The waterways are vital to our manufacturing sectors and to the construction industry.
- American consumers benefit from transportation cost-savings made possible by the inland waterways; for every \$1 invested in our inland waterways, \$10 is returned in national benefits.

Most of America's locks and dams were built in the 1920s and 1930s, yet are used to transport 21st century cargoes that fuel our modern economy. A WRRDA bill that is signed into law will help address these infrastructure needs and keep America moving forward.

We urge final passage of a WRRDA bill in the weeks ahead and we thank you for your service to the nation.

Sincerely,

National/International Organizations: Agricultural Retailers Association ▪ American Farm Bureau Federation ▪ American Soybean Association ▪ American Waterways Operators ▪ Associated General Contractors of America ▪ Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO ▪ Cargill ▪ CHS Inc. ▪ The Fertilizer Institute ▪ GROWMARK, Inc. ▪ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ▪ International Union of Operating Engineers ▪ Laborers' International Union of North America ▪ National Association of Manufacturers ▪ National Association of Wheat Growers ▪ National Barley Growers Association ▪ National Corn Growers Association ▪ National Council of Farmer Cooperatives ▪ National Grain and Feed Association ▪ National Oilseed Processors Association ▪ National Sunflower Association ▪ North America's Building Trades Unions ▪ United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters ▪ United Brotherhood of Carpenters ▪ US Canola Association ▪ US Chamber of Commerce ▪ US Dry Bean Council ▪ Waterways Council, Inc.

State Organizations: Arkansas Soybean Association ▪ Carpenters' District Council of St. Louis & Vicinity ▪ Colorado Corn Growers Association ▪ Corn Producers Association of Texas ▪ Ducks Unlimited St. Louis Blackducks Chapter ▪ Illinois Corn Growers Association ▪ Infrastructure Council of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce ▪ Illinois Farm Bureau ▪ Illinois Soybean Growers ▪ Indiana Corn Growers Association ▪ Indiana Soybean Alliance ▪ Iowa Corn Growers Association ▪ Iowa Soybean Association ▪ Illinois Soybean Association ▪ Kansas Soybean Association ▪ Kentucky Corn Growers Association ▪ Kentucky Soybean Association ▪ Michigan Soybean Association ▪ Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association ▪ Nebraska Soybean Association ▪ North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters ▪ Missouri Corn Growers Association ▪ Nebraska Corn Board ▪ Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association ▪ Ohio Soybean Association ▪ Pennsylvania Farm Bureau ▪ Tennessee Soybean Association

Regional Organizations: Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters ▪ Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters

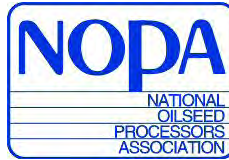
City/County Organizations: Adams County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Brown County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Calhoun County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Cook County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Ford-Iroquois County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Henry County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Kankakee County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Knox County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ LaSalle County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Lee County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Madison County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Massac County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Mercer County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Peoria County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Pike County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Pulaski-Alexander County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Rock Island County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Sangamon County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Scott County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ St. Clair County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Vermilion County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Wayne County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ White County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Will County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Winnebago-Boone County (Illinois) Farm Bureau



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



National Barley Growers Association



AGC of America THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA Quality People. Quality Projects.



NORTH CENTRAL STATES Regional Council of CARPENTERS



ASA American Soybean Association



NCFC National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS Value on Display. Every Day.



GROWMARK



The Fertilizer Institute Nourish, Replenish, Grow



US DRY BEAN Council

The American Waterways Operators

National Association of Wheat Growers



WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC.



National Sunflower Association KANSAS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION



Corn Growers' Association KENTUCKY

tn soybean association

coloradoCorn

Illinois Corn Growers Association



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

INDIANA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Farm. Family. Food.™

Nebraska CornBoard

INDIANA SOYBEAN ALLIANCE

NSA Nebraska Soybean Association

IOWA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



VOICE FOR SOY ILLINOIS SOYBEAN GROWERS



Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association

TEXAS CORN PRODUCERS

ARKANSAS Soybean Association

