



**WATERWAYS**  
COUNCIL, INC.

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Garret Graves  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Graves and Ranking Members DeFazio and Napolitano:

The members of Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) thank you for your leadership and commitment to returning the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) to a biennial process.

America's inland waterways system includes 12,000 miles of commercially operated and maintained navigable channels that directly affect 38 states. The inland waterways system is tasked with transporting the nation's bulk commodities that keep America competitive in the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly way. In 2016, 558 million tons of commodities valued at \$300 billion transited the waterways, supporting 541,000 American jobs.

WCI especially thanks you for not including language that would allow for the authority for concessions to be allowed at locks and dams. The inland waterways industry continues to be opposed to any toll, lockage fee, or any additional fees that would adversely affect the industry.

Passing this legislation in regular order is critical to ensuring waterways reliability in order to keep America competitive in foreign markets. WCI offers its full support of WRDA 2018.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Toohey  
President and CEO  
Waterways Council, Inc.