



December 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders Jeffries and McConnell:

The members of the Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) thank you for your leadership and commitment to the biennial Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) process.

Over 50% of IL corn and its co-products are exported out of state.

Improvements on the Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio River system has been an Illinois Corn Growers Association priority for almost 30 years. Waterways infrastructure gives Illinois farmers and other Illinois industries a competitive advantage over other countries in transportation of grain and other agricultural products. The crumbling lock and dam system costs Illinois corn farmers every day in lost efficiency getting their product to global marketplaces. Passage of WRDA24 paves the way for making these critical improvements.

Specifically, ICGA thanks you for Section 1126 Passage of WRDA which includes a permanent cost change to 75/25 (Federal/Inland Waterway Trust Fund) is critical to keep and maintain a steady funding stream so improvements are made in the most efficient manner possible.

All of Illinois uses the commodities, the foundations of our economy, that are moved by barges every day. ICGA offers their full support in the passage of WRDA24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lonett Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President

Illinois Corn Growers Association