



**SOY TRANSPORTATION
COALITION**

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Soy Transportation Coalition is pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2014*. We sincerely appreciate the leadership of Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Carper, and Ranking Member Capito, along with their respective staffs, in achieving this notable agreement. We strongly encourage the full House of Representatives and the Senate to provide their swift approval.

Amid the extreme partisan acrimony in Washington, DC, it is refreshing to see Democrats and Republicans continue to work together to advance legislation to maintain and improve our nation's critical water infrastructure. Transportation can and should be an issue that unites our political leaders. We are pleased WRDA continues to be an example of this.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 48% of U.S. soybean exports are transported by barge – primarily to export terminals along the lower Mississippi River. Barge transportation is one of predominant reasons U.S. soybean farmers are so competitive in the international marketplace. Investing in the inland waterway system and ports is simultaneously an investment in the success of soybean farmers.

We once again offer our sincere appreciation to House and Senate leaders for prioritizing this important piece of legislation. Farmers look forward to realizing the benefits of it in the future.

Sincerely,

Mike Steenhoek
Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition