



December 3, 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 Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) and American Waterways Operators (AWO) thank you for your leadership and commitment to the biennial Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) 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 2021, about 500 million tons of commodities valued at over \$158 billion transited the waterways, supporting nearly 500,000 American jobs.

Specifically, WCI and AWO thank you for Section 1126 that permanently adjusts the IWTF cost share to 25%, a critical provision that will help expedite the completion of inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects. Passing this legislation is critical to keeping America competitive by ensuring waterways reliability. AWO and WCI offer their full support to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T-Z".

Tracy Zea
President and CEO
Waterways Council, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer A. Carpenter".

Jennifer Carpenter
President and CEO
American Waterways Operators

CC:

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure