



May 30, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Barrasso and Inhofe and Ranking Members Carper and Cardin:

The members of Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) thank you for your leadership and commitment to returning the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA), which was included in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, 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 America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

Sincerely,

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