

NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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June 29, 2005

The Honorable John J. Duncan
Member of Congress
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We urge you to strongly support H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 (WRDA), as reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. H.R. 2864:

- Is founded on the principle that our quality of life depends on both economic growth and the health of our environment,
- Recognizes the critical role of water resources to both our economy and our environment,
- Keeps our Nation's commitment to non-Federal sponsors for timely authorizations that solve critical problems,
- Authorizes not only projects critical to our economy but also authorizes some of the largest and unprecedented ecosystem restoration efforts in the world,
- Positions the Corps of Engineers to meet contemporary water resources needs with fully modern tools including streamlined studies, peer review that adds value to planning and science-based mitigation,
- Codifies improvements the Corps has and is making to ensure confidence in its studies and recommendations,
- Represents a bi-partisan compromise that is the best hope to ending the recent WRDA stalemate and restoring a predictable biennial WRDA cycle.

Our water resources contribute mightily to our Nation's economic and environmental well-being. Ports and waterways are integral to our national transportation system that contribute \$718 billion to the Nation's GDP while ensuring domestic and international trade opportunities and safe, low-cost and eco-friendly transportation of important products such as consumer goods, steel, coal, fertilizer, salt, sand and gravel, cement, petroleum and chemicals. The U.S. maritime transportation system moves more than 60 percent of the Nation's grain exports and 95 percent of the Nation's imports. We cannot be competitive in world trade if we don't maintain efficient and reliable transportation. Over 50 percent of our locks and dams have aged beyond their life cycle and are crumbling. We must continue to modernize these facilities while sustaining the aquatic environment if we are to be competitive in international markets. Ports are our gateways to international trade, and their channels must be enhanced and maintained to accommodate the new generations of ships sailing to our shores. Our flood damage reduction program saves lives and prevents almost \$8 in damages for each dollar spent. Corps hydropower facilities supply 24% of the hydropower generated in the United States. Shore protection projects provide safety from hurricanes and other storm events for transportation, petroleum and agriculture infrastructure around our coastal waterways and deltas as well as recreational benefits, returning \$4 in benefits for each dollar invested. Projects for water supply, irrigation, recreation and wildlife habitat provide innumerable benefits. Investing in water resources sustains economic growth and the American worker, directly eases growing congestion on our Nation's roads and railroads and provides a finer quality of life.

Recently, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the nation's waterways a "D-" (their lowest grade) because of their steadily deteriorating condition and reliability. Our Nation simply cannot afford for this trend to continue. The Water Resources Development Act of 2005, as reported, will finally set the Nation back on the track of reversing the trend to realize substantial returns on investment in water resources. Through your support you can assure common sense policies to meet contemporary water resources needs as well as reliable and efficient water resources infrastructure from our coastlines to our ports and inland rivers and Great Lakes. It will help provide our children with the infrastructure necessary for an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

Sincerely,



An alliance of water-related businesses in aluminum, building materials, cement, chemical, coal, grain and feed, fertilizer, iron and steel, salt, paper and wood products, petroleum, and other industries; port authorities; labor unions; water carriers; river valley and industry associations; banks; utilities; agricultural and electric power cooperatives; flood control and coastal protection proponents; dredging and waterway service firms; boating recreation and water supply advocates, shipyards and repair facilities, and terminals, serving millions of customers, clients and consumers. Visit our website: www.waterways.org.

- Agricultural Retailers Association
- Alter Barge Line, Inc.
- American Association of Port Authorities
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Feed Industry Association
- American Shipbuilding Association
- American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Soybean Association
- The American Waterways Operators
- Arch Coal Company
- Arkansas Basin Development Association
- Arkansas Red River Commission
- Arkansas Waterways Association
- Arkansas Waterways Commission
- Associated General Contractors of America
- Association of Marina Industries
- Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association
- Bay Planning Coalition (CA)
- B&H Towing Co.
- Bean Dredging Company
- Boaters are Voters, Inc.
- Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS)
- Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.
- Brennan Marine, Inc.
- Broussard Brothers, Inc.
- Brownsville Navigation District "Port of Brownsville"
- Buffalo-Putnam County Port Authority
- Bunge North America, Inc.
- Burns & McDonald Engineering
- California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
- Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity
- CEMEX, Inc.
- CF Industries
- CH2M HILL
- CHS Inc.
- Channel Shipyard Companies
- CITGO Petroleum Corp.
- Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority
- Coalition to Protect the Missouri River (CPR)
- Columbiana County Port Authority (OH)
- Colusa Elevator Company
- Compass Minerals International
- Consolidated Blenders, Inc.
- Construction Management Association of America
- Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association
- Crescent Marine, Inc.
- Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Determann Industries, Inc.
- Dredging Contractors of America
- Economy Boat Store
- Ergon, Inc.
- The Fertilizer Institute
- The Fire Island Association
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- J. Russell Flowers, Inc.
- Gahagan & Bryant, Inc.
- Garick Corporation
- Georgia Ports Authority
- Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
- Greater Lafourche Port Commission
- Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company
- Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes Inc.
- The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force
- Great River Economic Development Foundation
- Greenville Port Authority (MS)
- Grifco Transportation, Ltd.
- Hampton Roads Maritime Association
- Harris County Flood Control District (TX)
- HDR
- HMS Fuels
- Holcim (US) Inc.
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Corn Growers Association
- INCA Engineers Inc.
- Ingram Barge Company
- Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.
- Interlake Steamship Company
- International Longshoremens' Association
- International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
- James Marine, Inc.
- Jantran, Inc.
- J B Marine Service, Inc.
- Jim Smith Contracting Co. LLC
- Johnson Machine Works, Inc.
- Johnston Enterprises
- Johnston's Port 33
- J.R. Simpson and Associates, Inc.
- Kansas Corn Growers Association
- Klingner & Associates, P.C.
- Laborers' International Union of North America-Midwest Region
- Lake Carriers' Association
- Lake Charles Pilots, Inc.
- Lake City Steamship Agency, a P&O Co.
- Lake Providence Port Commission
- Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners
- The Lueken Group
- The Little River Drainage District (MO)
- Little Rock Port Authority
- Long Island Coastal Alliance
- Louisiana Department of Transportation, Office of Public Works & Intermodal Transportation
- Luedtke Engineering Company
- MARC 2000
- Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
- Martin Midstream Partners
- Maryland Grain Producers Association
- Massman Construction Co.
- McCallie Marine Services, LLC
- Merichem Chemicals and Refinery Services
- Midwest Energy Resources Company
- Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
- Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
- Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

- Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association
- Mississippi Welders Supply Company
- Missouri Corn Growers Association
- Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
- Missouri Levee & Drainage District Association
- Missouri Port Authority Association
- Missouri Soybean Association
- Moffat & Nichol
- Moran Towing Company
- National Association of Maritime Organizations
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- National Grain and Feed Association
- National Grain Trade Council
- National Grange
- National Heavy & Highway Alliance:
 - Laborers' International Union of North America
 - International Union of Operating Engineers
 - United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners
 - International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental & Reinforcing Iron Workers of America
 - Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons International Association
 - International Brotherhood of Teamsters
 - International Union of Brickyard Layers & Allied Craftworkers
- National Industrial Transportation League
- National Maintenance & Repair
- National Mining Association
- National Oilseed Processors Association
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
- National Waterways Conference, Inc.
- New Bourbon Regional Port Authority
- New Madrid County Port Authority
- North Carolina State Ports Authority
- NSA Agencies, Inc.
- Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation-Waterways Branch
- Osprey Line LLC
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
- Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc.
- Pemiscot County (MO) Drainage District #3
- Pemiscot County (MO) Port Authority
- Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Company
- Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
- Port of Corpus Christi
- Port of Everett (WA)
- Port of Greater Baton Rouge
- Port of Lake Charles (LA)
- Port of Memphis
- Port of Muskogee
- Port of New Orleans Board of Commissioners
- Port of Pascagoula (Jackson County Port Authority)
- Port of Pasco
- Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- Port of Shreveport-Bossier
- Port of West St. Mary
- Portland Cement Association
- PPG Industries
- Red River Valley Association
- Red River Waterway Commission
- River Resource Alliance
- Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission
- Salt Institute
- St. Louis City Port Authority/Economic Council
- J. Simmons Group
- SSA Marine
- Steamship Association of Louisiana
- Tennessee River Valley Association
- Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority
- Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council
- Terra Nitrogen
- Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District
- Transportation, Elevator and Grain Merchants Association
- Transportation Institute
- Tri-City Regional Port District
- Tuloma Stevedoring, Inc.
- The Tulsa Port of Catoosa
- Twomey Company
- Upper Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers Association
- Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
- Upper Monongahela River Association, Inc.
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association
- Warrior Tombigbee Waterway Association
- Waterways Council, Inc.
- The Waterways Journal, Inc.
- Waterways Towing & Offshore Services
- West Virginia Department of Transportation
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board