

NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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September 21, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist and Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Frist and Sen. Reid:

Because of the critical importance of water resources to this Nation, the undersigned strongly urge you to bring S. 728, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, to the Senate floor for a vote as soon as possible. It has been five long years since a WRDA was passed, leaving a number of projects, vital to the well-being of the nation, languishing in limbo. Not only does WRDA contain authorizations for greatly needed ports, locks and dams, flood control projects, including beach re-nourishment, and environmental restoration projects, it contains a number of crucial project modifications. In addition, S. 728:

- Is founded on the principle that water resources projects provide quality of life benefits through economic growth and the health of 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, such as Louisiana Coastal Restoration and the Everglades.
- 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,
- And, in light of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, this WRDA would ensure that the Corps undertakes a risk-analysis approach to water resources planning, including considering the potential for loss of life in flood areas all over the country. It also allows for the multi-benefits of projects to be identified, thereby allowing Congressional leaders to make more informed judgments.

Our water resources contribute mightily to our Nation's economic and environmental well-being. Ports and waterways are integral to our national transportation system and 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. Ports are our gateways, allowing us to be competitive, and their channels must be enhanced and maintained to accommodate the new generations of ships sailing to our shores. 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. Over 50 percent of our locks and dams have aged beyond their life cycle and many are crumbling. We must continue to modernize these facilities while sustaining the aquatic environment. Our flood damage reduction program saves lives and prevents almost \$8 in damages for each dollar spent. In the lower Mississippi Valley, flood control projects return over \$24 per dollar spent in property damages saved. 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-minus" (their lowest grade) because of their steadily deteriorating condition and reliability. As Katrina so brutally demonstrated, 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 so as to realize substantial returns on investment in water resources. By bringing the Water Resources Development Act to the floor, 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,

- ADM/American River Transportation Co.
- AG Processing Inc.
- AGC of St. Louis
- Agribusiness Association of Iowa
- Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- AGRIServices of Brunswick, LLC
- Agrium
- Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators
- All American Co-op
- Port of Alsea (OR)
- Alter Barge Line
- Ameren
- American Association of Port Authorities
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Feed Industry Association
- American Pilots' Association
- American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Soybean Association
- Aon Risk Services of Missouri
- Arch Coal Inc.
- Arkansas Basin Development Association
- Arkansas Red River Commission
- Arkansas Waterways Association
- Arkansas Waterways Commission
- The Associated General Contractors of America
- Port of Astoria (OR)
- Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association
- Port of Bandon (OR)
- Bay Planning Coalition (CA)
- Bean Stuyvesant LLC
- Port of Benton (WA)
- Bergmann Associates
- Big Soo Terminal
- Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS)
- Boaters are Voters
- Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.
- Brennan Marine, Inc.
- Port of Brookings Harbor (OR)
- Port of Brownsville (TX)
- Buffalo-Putnam Port District (WV)
- Bunge North America, Inc.
- Bussen Terminal
- Cahokia Marine Service
- California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
- Borough of Cape May Point, NJ
- Cargo Carriers/Cargill
- Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity
- CEMEX USA
- Ceres Consulting, L.L.C.
- CF Industries, Inc.
- CGB Enterprises, Inc.
- CH2M HILL
- Cherokee Barge & Boat, LLC
- CHS, Inc.
- CITGO Petroleum Corp.
- Port of Columbia (WA)
- Columbiana County Port Authority (OH)
- Columbia River Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
- Columbia River Shippers Association
- Colusa Elevator Co.
- Consolidated Blenders, Inc.
- Construction Management Association of America
- Continental Cement Company, Inc.
- Port of Coos Bay (OR)
- Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association, Inc.
- Cora Terminal, L.P.
- Port of Corpus Christi (TX)
- Creedmoor, NC
- Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corp.
- Port of The Dalles (OR)
- Davison Petroleum Products, LLC
- DeBruce Grain, Inc.
- Port of Depoe Bay (OR)
- Des Arc Industrial Development Corporation (AR)
- Determann Industries, Inc.
- Dredging Contractors of America
- The Dutra Group
- Dyno Nobel Inc.
- Eagle Marine Industries, Inc.
- Economy Boat Store
- Port of Everett (WA)
- Fabick Power Systems
- Farmers Coop Association
- Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company
- Farmers Elevator Company of Traverse
- The Fertilizer Institute
- The Fire Island Association (NY)
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- J. Russell Flowers, Inc.
- Gahagan and Bryant Associates
- City of Galveston, TX
- Port of Garibaldi (OR)
- Garick Corp.
- Garvey Marine, Inc.
- Gateway Arch Riverboats
- Gateway FS, Inc.
- Georgia Ports Authority
- Ben C. Gerwick, Inc.
- Port of Gold Beach (OR)
- Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

- Grain Processing Corporation
- Grampa Woo Excursions
- Great Lakes Dredge & Dock
- Great River Economic Development Foundation
- Green Bay Farms L.P.
- Grundy County Farm Bureau
- Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
- Hampton Roads Maritime Association
- Harber, Inc.
- Harmony/Preston Agri Services, Inc.
- Harris County Flood Control District (TX)
- Hatch Mott MacDonald (NJ)
- Hawkins Chemical Company, Inc.
- HDR
- Heart of Illinois Regional Port District
- HNTB Corporation
- Hofmeister Bros.
- Holcim (U.S.) Inc.
- Port of Humboldt Bay (CA)
- Humco Marine Products, Inc.
- Hunter Marine Transport, Inc.
- IEI Barge Services, Inc.
- Illinois Corn Growers Association
- Illinois Farm Bureau Federation
- Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
- Illinois Grain and Feed Association
- Illinois River Carriers Association
- Illinois Soybean Association
- Illinois State Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois State Council of Carpenters
- Port of Ilwaco (WA)
- Imperial Beach (CA)
- INCA Engineering, Inc.
- Independent Liquid Terminals Association
- Industrial Association of Quincy (IL)
- Industrial Development Authority of New Madrid County
- Ingram Barge Lines, Inc.
- Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Inc.
- Iowa Corn Growers Association
- Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
- Iowa Renewable Fuels
- Islandia II Condominium Association (FL)
- James Marine Inc.
- Jebro Incorporated
- Jersey County Grain Company
- Johnson Machine Works
- Johnston Port 33
- Kansas City Power & Light
- Kansas Corn Growers Association
- Kaskaskia Regional Port District
- City of Keokuk, IA
- Kinder Morgan Bulk Terminals, Inc.
- Kindra Lake Towing, L.P.
- Kirby Corporation
- Laborers' International Union of North America, Midwest Region
 - Laborers' International Union of North America Great Plains Laborers' District Council
 - Laborers' International Union of North America Southwestern Illinois Laborers' District Council
 - Laborers' International Union of North America Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council
- Lake Carriers' Association
- Lake Providence Port Commission (LA)
- Port of Lewiston (ID)
- Limited Leasing Company
- The Little River Drainage District (MO)
- Linwood Mining & Minerals Corp.
- Little Rock Port Authority
- Lone Star Industries, Inc.
- Long Island Coastal Alliance
- Port of Longview (WA)
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Public Works and Intermodal Transportation
- Luhr Bros. Inc.
- Magnolia Marine Transport Co.
- Borough of Mantoloking, NJ
- MARC 2000
- Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey
- Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
- Marquette Transportation Co., Inc.
- Martin County (FL) Board of County Commissioners
- Maryland Grain Producers Association
- Massman Construction Co.
- McCallie Marine Service, LLC
- MEMCO Barge Line
- Port of Memphis (TN)
- Merichem
- Merrill Marine Services
- MFA, Inc.
- Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District
- Mid-America Port Commission
- Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters
- Midwest Industrial Fuels, Inc.
- Midwest Region Laborers'-Employers Coop & Education Trust
- Robert B. Miller & Associates, Inc.
- Minneapolis Grain Exchange
- Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, Inc.

- Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
- Minnesota Ports Association
- Minnesota Production Retailers Association
- Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association
- Mississippi Welders Supply Co Inc.
- Missouri Ag Industry Council (MO-AG)
- Missouri Barge Line Company, Inc.
- Missouri Corn Growers Association
- Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
- Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association
- Missouri Oil Council
- Missouri Port Authority Association
- Missouri Soybean Association
- MO-ARK Association
- Monsanto
- Port of Morrow (OR)
- Morrow Group USA
- Port of Muskogee (OK)
- National Association of Maritime Organizations
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- 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 of America
 - International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers
 - Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association
 - International Brotherhood of Teamsters
 - International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
- National Industrial Transportation League
- National Oilseed Processors Association
- National Marine Manufacturers Association
- National Mining Association
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
- National Waterways Conference, Inc.
- New Madrid County Port Authority (MO)
- Port of Newport (OR)
- Port of New Orleans
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Norman Bros., Inc.
- North America Grain Export Association
- North Carolina State Port Authority
- North Topsail Beach, NC
- NSA Agencies, Inc.
- City of Oceanside (CA)
- Oceanside Small Craft Harbor District (CA)
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Waterways Advisory Board
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Waterways Branch
- Olympic Marine Company
- Ouachita River Valley Association
- Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
- Pattison Bros. Mississippi River Terminal, Inc.
- Port of Palm Beach (FL)
- Port of Pasco (WA)
- Town of Pawleys Island, SC
- Pemiscot County Port Authority (MO)
- Pere Marquette Shipping (MI)
- Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- Port of Portland (OR)
- Portland Cement Association
- Portland Shipping Club
- Port of Port Orford (OR)
- Ports Association of Louisiana
- Quad City Development Group
- Red River Terminals LLC
- Red River Valley Association
- Port of Redwood City (CA)
- RiverBarge Excursion Lines, Inc.
- River Cement Company
- River Navigation Coalition
- River Resource Alliance
- River Stone Group, Inc.
- Riverway Company
- Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission (MS)
- St. Louis Basic Building and Construction Trades Council
- St. Louis City Port Authority/Economic Council
- St. Louis Regional Council for Growth Association
- Salt Institute
- San Clemente, CA
- City of Sarasota, FL
- Sargeant Grain Company
- Scott County Farm Bureau
- The Scouler Company
- Seneca Transportation
- Shaver Transportation Company
- Port of Siuslaw (OR)
- Southeast Grain and Feed Dealers Association
- Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program
- Southwestern Power Resources Association
- Jim Smith Contracting
- Smurfit Stone Container Corporation
- Solana Beach, CA
- South Bethany Beach, DE
- SSA Marine, Inc.

- John W. Stone Oil Distributor, Inc.
- Sunshine Oil and Storage, Inc.
- Surf City, NC
- Village of Surfside Beach, TX
- Tennessee River Valley Association
- Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council
- Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority
- Tennessee Valley Towing, Inc.
- Terminal Express
- Port of Toledo (OR)
- Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District
- Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission, NC
- Topsail Beach, NC
- Transportation, Elevator and Grain Merchants Association
- Transportation Institute
- Treasure Island Municipal Utility District, Brazoria County, TX
- Tri-City Regional Port District
- Trinity Marine Products, Inc.
- TriOak Foods, Inc.
- Tri State Economic Development Summit
- Tulsa Port of Catoosa (OK)
- Two Rivers Economic Development District
- Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
- Twomey Company
- Port of Umatilla (OR)
- Port of Umpqua (OR)
- United Soybean Board
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association
- U.S. Wheat Associates
- Upper Mississippi Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association
- Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
- Upper Monongahela River Association
- Upper River Services LLC
- Ursa Farmers Cooperative
- Port of Vancouver (WA)
- City of Venice (FL)
- Village Council of Bald Head Island (NC)
- Wahkiakum County (WA)
- Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association
- Washington Association of Wheat Growers
- Waterways Council, Inc.
- The Waterways Journal
- Weeks Marine, Inc.
- West Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council
- Western Kentucky Navigation, Inc.
- West Virginia Public Port Authority
- White River Coalition (AR)
- Winona River and Rail
- Wisconsin Agri-Service Association
- Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
- Women's Shipping Club of Portland (OR)