

# NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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April 16, 2007

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman, House Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
B 376 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Ranking Member, House Transportation  
and Infrastructure Committee  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

It is vitally important that America's water resources infrastructure be reliable and productive. Therefore we applaud your efforts to end the stalemate over water resources project authorization by marking-up H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA). We firmly believe that the bi-partisan compromise worked out under your leadership for H.R. 1495 is the model required to end the impasse over passage of WRDA.

This bill is needed to accommodate the many important projects awaiting authorization, as well as to address a number of policy issues, such as the need to streamline the feasibility study process, provide for workable project peer review and refine mitigation requirements to embody sound ecological science. As important as this bill is to the well-being of American citizens, it is equally important that the policy provisions actually improve the process by which the Corps of Engineers formulates project solutions as well as provide value-added independent review requirements. We believe your bill codifies and enhances the current Corps processes and, by finally addressing the "Corps reform" issue in a balanced way, can lead to stability for the Corps of Engineers and reassure the nation that the Corps is a world-class engineering organization for the future.

Our water resources system contributes mightily to America's well-being. With adequate dredging, our ports and waterways are the backbone of our transportation system—ensuring domestic and international trade opportunities and a safe, cheap and eco-friendly transportation alternative for products such as steel, coal, fertilizer, energy products and byproducts, salt, sand and gravel, cement, petroleum, chemicals, etc. In addition, the U.S. maritime transportation system moves more than 60 percent of the Nation's grain exports. 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. Projects for water supply, irrigation, recreation, beach nourishment and wildlife habitat provide innumerable benefits. These water-related assets have the potential to help grow our economy, help ease our Nation's growing congestion problem and provide a finer quality of life.

The members of the National Waterways Alliance look forward to working with you to ensure that our water resources infrastructure remains a monument to the greatness of the United States.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials



An alliance of waterway 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; shipyards and repair facilities, and terminals, serving millions of customers, clients and consumers. Visit our website: [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org).

American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Public Works Association  
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association  
Arch Coal  
Arkansas Waterways Association  
Arkansas Waterways Commission  
Associated General Contractors of St. Louis  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (U.S.A.), Inc.  
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association  
B&H Towing  
Bay Planning Coalition (San Francisco, CA)  
Bergmann Associates  
Bi-State Turkey Creek Association  
Brennan Marine, Inc.  
Bunge North America, Inc.  
Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce (IA)  
Buzzi Unicem USA  
California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference  
Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity  
Caver and Associates, Inc.  
The Celtic Group  
CF Industries  
Chickasaw Basin Authority (TN)  
CH2M HILL  
CHS  
Collins Engineers Inc.  
Columbiana County Port Authority (OH)  
Colusa Elevator Co.  
Commodity Markets Council  
Construction Management Association of America  
CSA Equipment Company, LLC  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Design Professionals Coalition  
Determann Industries  
DiMatter & Associates, Inc.  
Dredging Contractors of America  
Gahagan & Bryant Associates  
Garick Corporation  
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC  
Great Plains Laborers District Council  
Great River Economic Development Foundation  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission (LA)  
Grow Greater Burlington (IA)  
Growmark, Inc.  
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association

Gulf States Maritime Association  
Harris County Flood Control District (TX)  
HDR  
Heart of Illinois Regional Port District  
Hermann Sand & Gravel Inc.  
HNTB  
Hunter Marine  
IEI Barge Services  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Industrial Association of Quincy (IL)  
Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc.  
International Dredging Review  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association  
Jantran, Inc.  
Johnson Machine Works, Inc.  
Johnston Seed Co.  
Johnston's Port 33  
Johnston's Terminal (OK)  
Johnston's of Chalmette, Inc. (LA)  
Johnston's of Gramercy (LA)  
Kaskaskia Regional Port District (IL)  
Kindra Lake Towing  
Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters  
Land O'Lakes  
Little Rock Port Authority  
Logistics Services, Inc.  
Marine Transportation Specialists Corporation  
Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey  
Maritime Transport & Logistics Advisors, LLC  
Martin Marine LLP  
Maryland Grain Producers Association  
Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District  
Mid-America Port Commission  
Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters  
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Mississippi Water Resources Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association  
Missouri Soybean Association  
MO-Ark  
Moffatt-Nichol  
Morrow Group USA, Inc.  
Mt. Vernon Barge Service

National Association of Maritime Organizations  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grange  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Mining Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Water Resources Association  
National Waterways Conference, Inc.  
New Bourbon Regional Port Authority (MO)  
New Madrid County (MO) Port Authority  
The North American Export Grain Association  
Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters  
NSA Agencies Inc.  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation—Waterways Branch  
Ouachita River Valley Association  
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association  
Pemiscot County (MO) Port Authority  
Portland Cement Association  
Port of Alexandria (LA)  
Port of Corpus Christi (TX)  
Port of Galveston (TX)  
Ports of Indiana  
Port of Lake Charles (LA)  
Port of Memphis (TN)  
Port of Milwaukee (WI)  
Port of Muskogee (OK)  
Port of New Orleans (LA)  
Port of Palacios (TX)  
Port of Palm Beach (FL)  
Port of Pasco (WA)  
Port of Pittsburgh Commission  
Port of Port Orford (OR)  
Port of Portland (OR)  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier (LA)  
Port of South Louisiana  
Port of Stockton (CA)  
Port of West St. Mary (LA)  
Red River Valley Association  
Red River Waterway Commission  
River Navigation Coalition  
River Resource Alliance  
Rodger D. Harris and Associates  
Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission (MS)

Salt Institute  
Shattuck Grain Inc.  
Shaver Transportation Company

Shelby County, TN  
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation  
Soil Farming Inc.  
SSA Marine  
Tennessee River Valley Association  
Terra Nitrogen  
Texas Water Conservation Association  
The Associated General Contractors of America  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District  
TPG Marine Enterprises, LLC  
Transportation, Elevator & Grain Merchants Association  
Transportation Institute  
Trinity Marine  
Tri State Economic Summit (IA-IL-MO)  
University of New Orleans  
Upper Mississippi, Missouri & Illinois Rivers Association  
Upper Mississippi Waterway Association  
Upper Monongahela River Association Incorporated  
Ursa Farmers  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Maritime Association  
Volunteer Barge & Transport, Inc.  
W.B. Johnston Grain Co.  
White River Coalition  
Waterways Advisory Board-Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
Waterways Council, Inc.  
Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters