

NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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August 20, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Waterways infrastructure is crucial to America – Sign H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act 2007

Dear Mr. President:

Reliable, well-maintained water resources infrastructure is fundamental and crucial to America's economic and environmental well-being. Our citizens rely on dependable ports and waterways, life-saving flood control - in the wake of catastrophic storms, the need for investment in flood protection and dam safety is paramount - abundant water supplies, shore protection, water recreation, environmental restoration, and hydropower production to maintain their standard of living, including their jobs.

The stakeholders of our navigation system are willing partners in the maintenance and improvements of our infrastructure. Inland users currently contribute a 20-cent per gallon fuel tax to the Inland Waterway Trust Fund, which pays for one-half of the cost of construction and major rehabilitation of locks and dams. One hundred percent of the maintenance of our ports and harbors is financed through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF).

WRDA 2007 (H.R. 1495) offers you, Mr. President, the opportunity to partner with lawmakers, stakeholders, and citizens to re-establish America's crucial waterways infrastructure that has been taken for granted for far too long. WRDA 2007 (H.R. 1495) would authorize \$21 billion for navigation and flood control projects, as well as, environmental protection. Senate and House Conference Committees have studied this vital piece of legislation with diligence and the understanding that America's waterways can no longer afford to be ignored, the passage of time has only increased costs and put at risk one of America's greatest resources.

We respectfully urge you to sign WRDA 2007 (H.R. 1495), a bill that truly addresses America's water resource infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,



An alliance representing river valley and industry associations; banks; utilities; agricultural and electric power cooperatives; flood control and coastal protection proponents; environmental restoration advocates, businesses such as aluminum, building materials, cement, chemicals, coal, grain and feed, fertilizer, iron and steel, salt, paper and wood products, petroleum, and other industries; port authorities; labor unions; waterborne carriers; dredging, engineering and waterway service firms; shipyards and repair facilities, and terminals, serving millions of customers, clients, consumers and stakeholders. Visit our website: www.waterways.org.

CHS, Inc.
DiMatter & Associates, Inc.
Little Rock Port Authority
The Fertilizer Institute
Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Port of Galveston
Celtic Marine Corporation
HDR
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (U.S.A.), Inc.
Dredging Contractors of America
Bergmann Associates
Determann Industries, Inc.
Missouri Port Authority Association
Pemiscot County (MO) Port Authority
Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Inc.
Ouachita River Valley Association
Bay Planning Coalition
Gulf States Maritime Association
Logistic Services, Inc.
California Marine Affairs & Navigation
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Brennan Marine
Red River Valley Association
Red River Waterway Commission
Cooper Marine and Timberlands Corporation
Port Authority for Columbiana County Ohio
Ohio Council of Port Authorities
NSA Agencies Inc.
Port of Corpus Christi Authority
INCA Engineers
Port of New Orleans
Port of Lake Charles
Port of Portland
Garick Corporation
Upper Monongahela River Association Incorporated
New Madrid County Port Authority
Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Commission

Port of South Louisiana

Design Professionals Coalition

Portland Cement Association

Iowa Corn Growers Association

National Oilseed Processors Association

American Soybean Association

Commodity Markets Council

Transportation, Elevator & Grain Merchants Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

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