



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

December 7, 2022

**To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
House staff assigned to steel and/or water infrastructure issues**

**SUPPORT H.R. 7776 - THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022,
AS PART OF THE FINAL FY2023 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

Background: The health and stability of our nation's marine transportation system is critical to the economic competitiveness of the domestic steel industry. AISI member companies rely heavily on seaports and inland waterways for transporting raw materials to their mills for manufacturing steel products. The national water resources infrastructure system is also key for companies to move finished steel products to their customers and to end users in the market.

Situation: The final FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act contains the bipartisan, bicameral agreement for the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022). This legislation would authorize and fund key investments in critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) across the country, including the construction and maintenance of ports, inland waterways, locks and dams. The final bill contains authorization for 25 new Corps projects and 106 feasibility studies for eventual investments. It also updates the authorization for the ongoing modernization of the Soo Locks in Michigan, through which nearly all of the iron ore used for American steel production is shipped. Finally, WRDA 2022 also makes permanent an inland waterways project cost-share formula of 65 percent from the general fund of the Treasury and 35 percent from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (from the previous 50/50 split). Doing so will facilitate the timely construction of important inland navigation projects that are critical to the steel industry and our customers.

Request: Please vote in support of H.R. 7776, the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which contains the critical Water Resources Development Act of 2022, when it is considered by the full House today. The WRDA legislation would further facilitate critical investments in our nation's waterborne transportation system and enhance the economic competitiveness of the domestic steel industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO