



December 5, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders Kevin McCarthy and Mitch McConnell:

The members of Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) and American Waterways Operators (AWO) thank you for your leadership and commitment to the biennial Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) process.

America's inland waterways system includes 12,000 miles of commercially operated and maintained navigable channels that directly affect 38 states. The inland waterways system is tasked with transporting the nation's bulk commodities that keep America competitive in the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly way. In 2016, 558 million tons of commodities valued at \$300 billion transited the waterways, supporting 541,000 American jobs.

Specifically, WCI and AWO thank you for three sections. Specifically for the section that eliminates the sunset provision for the 65 percent general revenue and 35 percent IWTF cost share adjustment in WRDA 2020. Eliminating the sunset is a step in the right direction and further cement the progress we have made to help expedite the completion of inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects. Another important section in the bill, recognizes the need for safety and flexible management of our system. The Houston Ship Channel Barge Lanes play a crucial role in the movement of dry and liquid cargos into the nation. With the changes provided, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can effectively manage these barge lanes to a sufficient depth for the safety of the mariners.

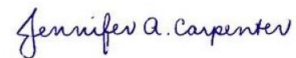
Additionally, we thank you for including the Regional Dredge Pilot Program. At a time when the Mississippi River is plagued by low water problems, providing the Corps with flexibility to deploy assets to trouble spots in a timely manner will help to reduce the disruption to navigation.

Enacting this legislation once again through regular order is critical to ensuring waterways continue to be reliable to keep America competitive. Together, WCI and AWO look forward to working with House and Senate leadership the as they proceed with final passage of WRDA 2022.

Sincerely,



Tracy Zea
President and CEO
Waterways Council, Inc.



Jennifer Carpenter
President and CEO
American Waterways Operators

CC:

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure