

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

January 10, 2011

**Support Job Creation and Economic Development, Support
Waterborne Transportation**

Dear Colleague:

I wanted to bring the attached *Wall Street Journal* article entitled "Old Locks Jam River Traffic" to your attention.

My first priority as a Member of Congress is cutting the Federal Budget and reducing our Federal deficit. However, I also realize that we cannot mortgage our future by failing to invest in the much-needed infrastructure projects that move our economy. Our ports and inland waterways are often overlooked in the debates regarding our transportation system.

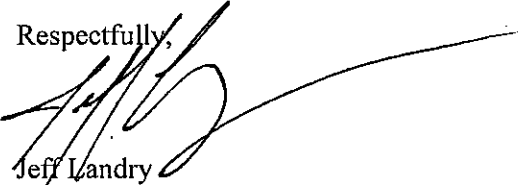
I wholeheartedly believe that the locks, levees and ports that compose our waterways are an integral part of our infrastructure network. Our 12,000 miles of inland waterways carry 624 million tons of cargo every year and take more than 58 million trucks off our overcrowded roads. Our port system employs 13.3 million Americans and conveys almost \$4 trillion annually in international trade. You may not even be aware that, the 100,000 miles of levees provide a six-fold return on initial construction investment and save an untold number of lives every year.

Considering these facts, investing in our water-based infrastructure not only puts Americans back to work, it provides cost-competitive transportation options to our nation's small businesses. Infrastructure improvements increase commerce. This is an expressed function of Congressional power under the Constitution.

I am not endorsing the Inland Waterway Users Board proposal mentioned in the article; I am simply bringing the article and their proposal to your attention in an effort to start the long-overdue and much-needed discussion about what we need to do to move our waterborne transportation system forward.

I hope you will join me in a responsible discussion of how best we can invest in our waterways.

Respectfully,



Jeff Landry
Member of Congress