



## LAKE CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION



May 26, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman,  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The Lake Carriers' Association is pleased that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022 has passed the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This bipartisan bill remains vital to ensuring the maritime supply chain can continue to move critical cargo, especially on the Great Lakes. We are thankful for your dedicated leadership and the work the Committee has accomplished so efficiently this year.

We urge the entire House to pass WRDA 2022 as soon as possible to continue to strengthen America's maritime navigational capacity. The Great Lakes have an estimated \$405 million dredging backlog, breakwaters and jetties need \$300 million in repairs, and the two existing navigation locks at Sault Ste Marie, Michigan require annual funding for maintenance. Funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Great Lakes region is vital to protecting the navigation system which is the pilot light of North American manufacturing. Passage of WRDA 2022 is an investment in the maritime industry, coastal communities, and the national economy.

### **About Lake Carriers' Association**

Since 1880, Lake Carriers' has represented the U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet, which today can move more than 90 million tons of cargos annually that are the foundation of American industry, infrastructure, and energy: iron ore, stone, coal, cement, and other dry bulk materials such as grain, salt, and sand.

Sincerely,

James H. I. Weakley  
President  
Lake Carriers' Association