

December 7, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your work on rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, specifically our country's inland waterways through the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA has a known history of being an effective bipartisan bill that has remained within its two-year reauthorization schedule. The reliability of this bill is something that is very important to the National Corn Growers Association and our corn farmer members.

The National Corn Growers Association represents nearly 40,000 dues paying corn farmers nationwide and nearly 300,000 growers who contribute through the corn checkoff program in their states. America's corn farmers need reliable means of moving their crops to customers, whether it is to livestock feed yards, grain elevators, the ethanol plant, or ports for export. Farmers use a variety of forms of transportation, with the inland waterways being a vital artery of transportation for our products, especially in the Midwest.

With 12,000 miles of commercially navigable channels and more than 240 lock sites, inland waterways allow our nation's corn growers to move their products to and from 38 states as well as internationally. The United States is the world's largest exporter of corn; however we receive tough competition from countries like Brazil and Argentina. Given that more than half of corn exports are transported via the inland waterways, continuing to invest in this system is critically important to our industry's competitiveness.

The undersigned organizations urge you to support the 2020 WRDA bill and pass this piece of key legislation before the end of the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

National Corn Growers Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association

Illinois Corn Growers Association
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Texas Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association