



National Grain and Feed Association

TRANSFORMING AMERICA'S HARVEST™

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June 6, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) urges passage of H.R. 7776 the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022. This legislation authorizes 16 construction projects approved by the Chief Engineer of Army Corps of Engineers since WRDA 2020 was passed. Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves have produced a strong bill. NGFA supports it advancing through the legislative process in the hopes that Congress' streak of enacting a biennial WRDA bill is kept intact.

The NGFA consists of more than 1,000 grain, feed, processing, exporting and other grain-related companies operating more than 8,000 facilities. Its membership includes grain elevators; feed and feed ingredient manufacturers; biofuels companies; grain and oilseed processors and millers; exporters; livestock and poultry integrators; twenty-seven affiliated State and Regional Grain and Feed Associations; and associated firms that provide goods and services to the nation's grain, feed, and processing industry.

The importance of Congress completing a biennial WRDA bill is significant for U.S. agriculture. For example, WRDA 2020 greatly bolstered the U.S. inland waterways transportation system by amending the cost-share formula for the construction and major rehabilitation of inland waterways navigation projects from the 50 percent general revenue and 50 percent Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) funding to 65 percent general revenue and 35 percent IWTF. NGFA urges that final WRDA 2022 bill include section 103 of S. 4163 to further improve this cost share to 75 percent general Treasury funds and 25 percent from the IWTF. This permanent change will further expedite the modernization of U.S. inland waterways.

U.S. agricultural exports hit an all-time high of \$177 billion in 2021 and account for 25 percent of a farmer's income. Furthermore, barges move about half of all grains to export grain elevators, including 48 percent of corn, 62 percent of soybeans and 47 percent of wheat. From the Pacific Northwest to the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast, the importance of inland waterways and ports to the grain and feed industry and American agriculture is clear. That is why NGFA urges that any final WRDA 2022 legislation maintain navigational access to critical lock and dam infrastructure, particularly the Lower Snake River Dams.

NGFA supports the passage of H.R. 7776 and looks forward to working with Congress to achieve another bipartisan, biennial WRDA bill.

Sincerely,

Michael Seyfert
President and CEO
National Grain and Feed Association

CC Chairman Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member Sam Graves, Chairwoman Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member David Rouzer