



July 28, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

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

WCI thanks you for Section 108. This section adjusts the cost-share formula for the construction and major rehabilitation of inland waterways navigation projects from the current 50 percent general revenue and 50 percent Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to 65 percent general revenue and 35 percent IWTF for seven years. The policy is a step in the right direction and will help expedite the completion of inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects during the applicable years. WCI looks forward to working with the Committee as they proceed to conference on making the cost-share permanent.

Passing this legislation in regular order is critical to ensuring waterways reliability in order to keep America competitive. WCI offers its support of passing WRDA 2020.

Sincerely,

Tracy Zea
President and CEO
Waterways Council, Inc.