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June 6, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As the House of Representatives considers the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (H.R. 7776), the American Soybean Association would like to thank you for your continued leadership in supporting America's waterways. The American Soybean Association (ASA) represents more than 500,000 U.S. soybean farmers on domestic and international policy issues important to the soybean industry and has 26 affiliated state associations representing 30 soybean-producing states.

As you know, soybeans and all agricultural commodities rely on a multimodal network to move product to market. The strength of America's farm economy relies on the efficiency of its inland waterways system and coastal ports. This competitive edge is critical in assuring the movement of our soybean supply to overseas markets remains efficient and reliable.

We would like to thank you and the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for your commitment to keep the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) on its biennial schedule since 2014. The certainty of regularly enacted WRDA legislation keeps projects on schedule and on budget, creating a waterways system that offers greater reliability and affordability to soybean farmers moving product to market.

ASA appreciates the work of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in drafting the 2022 WRDA in a timely manner and the Committee's continued focus on improving the inland waterways system.

However, ASA was disappointed that the Committee did not include a proposal to adjust the cost-share for construction and major rehabilitation projects on the inland waterways system from the current allocation of 65% general revenue funds and 35% Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) dollars which sunsets at the end of Fiscal Year 2031, as passed in the 2020 WRDA, to a permanent cost-share allocation adjustment of 75% general revenue funds and 25% IWTF dollars. These positive changes to cost-share allocations for major infrastructure projects, like the provision included as Section 103 in the bipartisan Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's WRDA (S. 4136), often reduce overall costs and allow projects to be completed

faster—allowing communities and industries to realize the economic benefits of a project more quickly.

Soybean growers thank the House of Representatives for its continued commitment to the biennial WRDA process and its consideration of inland waterways cost-share allocation changes. We look forward to continuing to work with the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the House of Representatives to address the needs of soybean growers and the agricultural industry at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brad Doyle
President

CC: The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Sam Graves
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
The Honorable David Rouzer