



Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers Honored by Waterways Council

(Above) Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee (center), was presented Waterways Council's 10th Annual Leadership Service Award by WCI President and CEO Cornel Martin (left) and WCI Chairman of the Board Rick Calhoun (right) for his work championing ports and waterways issues.

(Below) Congressman Rogers pledged to the WCI contingent to work hard to ensure that America's waterways remain an affordable, viable shipping and transportation option.



United States Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-05) was honored with the Tenth Annual Waterways Council, Inc. Leadership Service Award on Feb. 16 in Washington, DC.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized by the Waterways Council," stated Rogers. "The importance of our ports and our inland waterway system to our economic security cannot be understated, particularly in opening up access to the global marketplace. It has been my privilege to work with WCI and its membership over the years to help ensure our system is well-maintained and well-equipped to efficiently ship goods domestically and transport American products internationally. I look forward to continued collaboration on our shared goal – the development of an efficient, safe and environmentally-sound 'water highway' that maintains American competitiveness and job-creation."

Serving Kentucky's 5th Congressional District since 1981, Rogers is currently in his 16th term representing southern and eastern Kentucky and is the longest serving Kentucky Republican ever elected to federal office. Throughout Rogers' 27-year tenure on the Appropriations Committee,

he has served on eight different subcommittees, including leadership roles as Chairman or Ranking Member of three. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Rogers has been a strong supporter of our inland waterways.

"We are so pleased to have the opportunity to show our appreciation for the outstanding leadership of Congressman Rogers and to thank him for his commitment and service to America's critical waterway infrastructure," said Cornel Martin, President/CEO of Waterways Council, Inc. "Waterways Council, Inc.'s Leadership Service Award recognizes champions of our nation's waterways and port system, and Rep. Rogers certainly deserves that recognition."

Congressman Rogers has high hopes for the future, but stressed patience.

"I don't have to tell you that this is a historic time," he said. "On the House Floor, we're in the midst of a heated and historic debate about the financial trajectory of our country.

"We heard a cry from the electorate in November that it's time to rein in government, cut back federal spending and bureaucratic overreach, and eliminate unnecessary obstacles to job-creation. We need to get cracking on reducing our \$1.5 trillion deficit and creating certainty in our economy.

"This bill acknowledges the vital importance of our country's water and surface infrastructure to economic development and job creation."

Rogers emphasized his support of America's inland ports and waterways.

"Rivers are America's original highways, and we've got nearly 950 miles of river in Kentucky alone, along with 19 navigation locks and dams. It therefore stands to reason that I have always been proud to partner with you all to ensure that our inland waterways system is well-maintained and well-equipped to efficiently ship goods domestically and transport American products internationally.

"With instability in the oil market and gas prices, our waterways are becoming increasingly important for commerce. You all transported nearly 1 billion tons of commodities in 2008 – 60% of our grain, a quarter of our petroleum and 20% of the coal we use to fire our power plants.

"100 million of these coal tons went through my state of Kentucky, worth \$10 billion. And there is no question barge

transportation is safe, cost-efficient and environmentally-friendly. I'm told a typical barge keeps more than 1,000 tractor-trailers off our already congested highway system, and that its carbon footprint is miniscule when compared with rail and vehicular transport."

Rogers then touched on inadequate infrastructure.

"You know and I know that our infrastructure is aging, and it's starting to catch up with us. More than half of our country's 240 locks are at least 50 years old, and in dire need of repair. We've got some difficult decisions to make regarding the future of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund,

which you all have supported through a fuel tax since the 1980s.

"It's not often we see collaboration like we've seen with the Inland Waterways Users Board, and I applaud your willingness to work together with the Army Corps of Engineers towards a solution to ensure the long-term viability of our waterway infrastructure. I can't remember the last time someone came to me, and said, 'Please, raise my taxes.' But that's exactly what you're doing – and that is an embodiment of the spirit of shared sacrifice I mentioned earlier. I will work hard to ensure that our waterways remain an affordable, viable option for your industry." *IP*

**INLAND RIVERS, PORTS
and TERMINALS, Inc.**

Voice of the Inland Waterway Industry

IRPT

About IRPT

Chartered in 1975, Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals is a nationwide non-profit corporation with a membership comprised of inland river port & terminal operators, port authorities, river-related industries and businesses, government agencies and educational institutions.

OBJECTIVES

- Incorporation of the **National Marine Highway** into the United States' Overall Intermodal Transportation System
- Assist the Industry in Functioning Under Constant Port Security Requirements, Providing Policy Input as Appropriate and Serving as Fiduciary Agent for Numerous **Port Security Grants**
- Foster and Strengthen Relationships with Related Organizations for **Increased Industry Legislative Impact** and to Collaborate on Issues of Joint Interest
- Frequent Communication of Industry News & Views via Member Newsletter Now Featured in **Inland Port Magazine**
- Annual **Membership Directory** is an invaluable Industry Networking Guide

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Questions?
admin@irpt.net
504.585.0715

Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc.
316 Board of Trade Place • New Orleans, LA 70130