



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2005

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**WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. MEETS THE PRESS FOR YEAR-END
REVIEW AND FORECAST EVENT**

Washington, DC – Waterways Council, Inc., (WCI), the national public policy organization which advocates for a modern, well maintained national system of ports and inland waterways, today held a briefing for the Washington, DC, news media to discuss WCI’s national mission, the view on Capitol Hill, the challenges and successes from year-end 2004 and the prospects for the year ahead.

Waterways Council, Inc. works to educate decision-makers in the states and on Capitol Hill, as well as the news media and general public, about the value of the inland waterways in the transportation network and the need to maintain the waterways’ efficiency by modernizing, repairing and replacing decaying locks and dams. WCI recommends the allocation of \$150 million per year for a period of 10 years from the dedicated Inland Waterways Trust Fund to be matched by federal government funds for a total of \$300 million annually to complete authorized waterways infrastructure projects in a timely and efficient manner.

“It is vital that our Nation continue to modernize and replace where necessary the deteriorating locks and dams on our critically important inland waterways system before we face a national transportation crisis,” said Barry Palmer, President/CEO of Waterways Council, Inc. “This country’s ‘building block’ commodities are, in large part, transported on our inland waterways system and through our ports. We must strive to keep our waterways system operating as efficiently as possible, and our nation’s transportation system economically competitive,” he continued.

Waterways Council, Inc., is supported by more than 250 carriers, shippers, port authorities, shipping associations and waterways group members across the country.

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