



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES STRONG FUNDING OF CRITICAL LOCK AND DAM PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, DC – Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) is very pleased by the action of the House Appropriations Committee, which this afternoon overwhelmingly approved spending \$365.3 million in fiscal year 2006 to complete critical Inland Waterway Trust Fund financed lock and dam projects on the Nation’s inland waterways system. The Committee action further underscores and improves upon President Bush’s highest ever FY 2006 budget request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program. In their actions, both the Administration and the Committee have demonstrated an increasing understanding of the many benefits of the Nation’s inland waterways system and the goal of keeping the Nation economically strong and competitive.

“We particularly applaud the commitment of Energy & Water Development Subcommittee Chairman Hobson, Ranking Minority Member Visclosky and their Subcommittee colleagues to the efficient funding and completion of lock and dam projects from which the entire Nation will benefit,” said R. Barry Palmer, WCI President. “The overriding mission of Waterways Council is to advocate for the modernization of priority lock and dam projects and to urge funding at the highest levels possible to see those projects completed,” he continued.

Waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities and companies which use the nation’s waterways to transport essential bulk commodities such as coal, grain, petroleum and chemicals valued at more than \$31 billion annually rely upon a well-maintained and modern national system of ports and waterways.

A critical economic generator, the nation’s waterways transport key building-block commodities such as coal, grain, petroleum, chemicals, and aggregates that fuel the nation’s industrial and agricultural activity. The U.S. barge and towing industry is the most efficient mode of transportation, moving 15 percent of the nation’s freight for just two percent of the freight transportation cost, saving shippers and consumers more than \$7 billion annually compared to alternate transportation modes. Also more environmentally sound, waterways transport handles cargo equal to 40 million trucks or 10 million rail cars each year.

Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways. The group is supported by more than 250 waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities, shipping associations and waterways advocacy groups from all regions of the country.

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WATERWAYS
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FY 2006 Funding of America's Lock and Dam Modernization Projects

	FY 2006 President's Budget Request	FY 2006 House Markup	FY 2006 Efficient Funding Level
<u>Construction</u>			
Robert C. Byrd L/D Ohio River, OH/WV	\$914,000	\$914,000	\$3,000,000
Chickamauga L/D, TN	0	10,000,000	10,000,000
Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, LA	0	9,038,000	19,000,000
Kentucky Lock Addition Tennessee River, KY	0	21,750,000	40,350,000
Marmet L&D Kanawha River, WV	68,830,000	68,830,000	73,500,000
McAlpine L&D Ohio River, IN/KY	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000
Locks & Dams 2, 3, & 4 Monongahela River, PA	50,800,000	50,800,000	63,500,000
J. T. Myers L/D Ohio River, IN/KY	0	700,000	5,000,000
Olmsted L&D Ohio River, IL/KY	90,000,000	90,000,000	110,000,000
Winfield L&D Kanawha River, WV	2,400,000	- 0 -	2,400,000
<u>Major Rehabilitation</u>			
Emsworth Dam, Ohio River, PA	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000

L&D 11 Upper Miss., IA& WI	7,580,000	7,202,000	10,900,000
L&D 19 Upper Miss., IA	17,502,000	17,502,000	17,502,000
L&D 24 Upper Miss., IL& MO	4,300,000	4,300,000	4,300,000