



## **WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WCI COMMENDS THE HOUSE PASSAGE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT LEGISLATION** **Bill authorizes seven modern locks on Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers**

WASHINGTON, DC – Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) applauds the overwhelming passage today by the House of Representatives of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which, among other provisions, authorizes \$1.8 billion for the modernization of a Great Depression-era system of locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The 406 to 14 vote in favor of the WRDA bill further underscores a growing recognition of the many benefits of the Nation’s inland waterways system and its role in keeping the Nation economically strong and competitive, particularly in the U.S. agriculture sector.

“Waterways Council, Inc. strongly commends the House for their tremendous bi-partisan endorsement in favor of passage of a WRDA bill this year,” said R. Barry Palmer, WCI President. “Modern and efficient lock and dam infrastructure on our Nation’s inland waterways system allows for the efficient transport of our ‘building block’ commodities such as grain for export, coal for electric power generation and chemicals for the pharmaceutical industry and aggregate uses. The United States simply cannot compete without a modern waterways system, and today’s legislative passage will allow that to continue,” he said.

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.

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## **WRDA BILL PASSED.../2**

A critical economic generator, the nation's waterways transport key 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.

*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.*

Visit [www.waterwayscouncil.org](http://www.waterwayscouncil.org).