



NEWS RELEASE

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WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. PRAISES **SENATE PASSAGE OF** **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT** **BILL AUTHORIZES WATERWAYS, ECOSYSTEM** **IMPROVEMENTS**

WASHINGTON, DC – Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) expressed its pleasure with the passage late yesterday in the United States Senate of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation, S. 728, which authorizes critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers waterways and natural resources programs. Seven lock and dam modernization projects on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and Bayou Sorrel on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway will be authorized by this legislation. The strong vote in favor of the WRDA bill underscores a growing understanding of the importance of the Corps of Engineers Civil Works program and of the many benefits of the inland waterways system and its role in keeping the Nation economically strong and competitive. The bill will help to improve our waterways, ports, flood and hurricane protection systems, and also restore important environmental ecosystems.

“Waterways Council, Inc. is very pleased with the long-awaited passage of a WRDA bill in the Senate,” said R. Barry Palmer, WCI President. “We especially offer thanks to Senators Inhofe and Bond for their tireless leadership, and Senators Jeffords and Baucus for their cooperation in seeing this bill reach a successful conclusion,” he said.

“The Corps of Engineers has been studying improvements on the Upper Mississippi River for the last 14 years, and the passage of WRDA represents a major milestone in the broad-based effort to move those projects forward toward modernization. Modern lock and dam infrastructure on our Nation’s inland waterways and port system benefits so many Americans. The United States simply cannot compete without an efficient waterways transportation network and today’s Senate action allows this critical system to continue moving our Nation forward,” Palmer continued.

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SENATE APPROVES WRDA.../2

Waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities and companies which use the Nation's waterways and coastal port system to transport essential bulk commodities such as coal, grain, petroleum and chemicals valued at more than \$300 billion annually rely upon a well-maintained and modern national system of ports and waterways. Investment in our Nation's inland and coastal port system produces a tremendous return to our economy that significantly benefits every American.

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 waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities, shipping associations and waterways advocacy groups from all regions of the country.

Visit www.waterwayscouncil.org.