



NEWS RELEASE

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May 16, 2007

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WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. PRAISES SENATE PASSAGE OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2007 **Bill authorizes waterways and ecosystem improvements**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) expressed its great appreciation to the United States Senate for its passage of hallmark water resources legislation, commonly referred to as the WRDA bill, by a vote of 91 to 4. This important legislation authorizes important U.S. Army Corps of Engineers waterways and natural resources programs, including seven lock and dam modernization projects on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway, and the Bayou Sorrel and the Matagorda Bay re-route project on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The passage of this bill by an overwhelming majority of the Senate underscores the important work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And, today's action reflects the critically important benefits of the inland waterways system and its role in keeping the Nation economically competitive. The WRDA bill will also help to improve our ports, flood and hurricane protection systems, and restore critically important ecosystems.

“Waterways Council, Inc. commends the Senate on its early passage of this vitally important bill,” said R. Barry Palmer, WCI President. “Our members, particularly those in the Midwest, have been working diligently with Congress in an effort to modernize the Upper Mississippi River System, and today their efforts have been rewarded,” said Palmer. “We owe a debt of gratitude to so many members of the Senate, but would particularly like to thank Chairman Barbara Boxer and Ranking Member James Inhofe for their strong and thoughtful leadership in moving WRDA forward. On the heels of this favorable action today, we urge the leaders of the House and Senate to convene a

conference committee promptly so that we can get this much needed legislation enacted into law as soon as possible,” he continued.

America’s waterways system is an economic generator, attracting significant private and public investment in plant and equipment. This investment creates economic activity and hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs. The river system is a critical energy supply line, facilitator of exports, and an environmentally superior mode of transport.

More than 625 million tons of freight commodities move on America's inland navigation system each year. This commercial traffic includes building block commodities such as grain for domestic and international markets, steam coal for electric power generation, steel to domestic and international locations, petroleum products to distributors, feedstocks to chemical plants, and aggregate materials for construction use.

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.

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