



NEWS RELEASE

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WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC. ISSUES STATEMENT ON OBAMA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PLAN

Arlington, VA-- Cornel Martin, President/CEO of Waterways Council, Inc., has issued the following statement in response to President Obama's announcement on Monday that he will ask Congress to approve a \$50+ billion long-term spending plan for roads, railways and runways:

“While the nation celebrated Labor Day and all that the workforce has done to make America great, the waterways transportation industry was left disappointed and puzzled about why the President's announcement earlier this week to fund at least \$50 billion in infrastructure projects over the long term does not include any waterways or port projects. Our inland waterways not only support people who work on our rivers, but workers in our agricultural community and the many industries who rely on our waterways for affordable transportation of their goods, both domestically and for world markets. To not include and dismiss our nation's most environmentally sound, energy efficient and congestion-relieving mode of transportation, when its lock and dam infrastructure consistently earns a “D” grade, is unreasonable and unacceptable.

Just one jumbo barge moving our nation's and the world's critical commodities carries the same capacity as 70 trucks on our already over-crowded highways. Inland transportation has the lowest carbon footprint of the other modes and has the best safety record.

For all these reasons and more, the inland waterways industry remains a solution for the future and its infrastructure is critical to maintain a modern and efficient system of transportation for cargoes like grain, petroleum, corn, coal, steel, and aggregates that the United States and the world rely upon.

In support of our nation's labor force, our nation's waterways have helped to make our country great. It is time to stop dismissing waterways transportation infrastructure and instead work together to keep America moving!”

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