



The American Waterways Operators



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY,
VITALITY OF AMERICA'S INLAND NAVIGATION SYSTEM HEADED
TO CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today the Inland Waterways Users Board adopted a final report that accompanies a new comprehensive, consensus-based package of recommendations formulated by an industry and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working group to improve the continued vitality of the U.S. inland navigation system over the next 20 years. The report and recommendations are being sent to Congress and if adopted, will better address the needs of the entire system and provide more dollars for greatly needed infrastructure improvements. The Users Board is a federal advisory committee that provides advice to Congress and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

This proposal is supported by industry stakeholders (*see the current list of supporters at bottom of release*) and government as a way to fund the navigation system and would be in lieu of the imposition of a lockage fee that has been unsuccessfully offered in the last two fiscal year budgets and is strongly opposed by Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI), the American Waterways Operators (AWO), and the National Waterways Conference (NWC), as well as many Members of Congress.

Finalized in December and incorporated in a final report approved by the Users Board today, the recommendations were developed over a year-long period by the Inland Marine Transportation System Investment Strategy Team, composed of key U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel and members of the Users Board. Many in Congress have been very supportive of the process to create this set of recommendations.

The proposed recommendations and report prioritize navigation projects across the entire system, improve the Corps of Engineers' project management and processes to deliver projects on time

and on budget, and recommend a funding mechanism that is affordable and meets the system's needs.

“More than 150 stakeholders in industry have signed on to support this consensus-based long-term Inland Waterways Capital Development Plan that we feel will help our nation to continue to enjoy the benefits of our energy-efficient, congestion-relieving U.S. waterways transportation system,” said Cornel Martin, WCI President & CEO. “The recommendations urge funding parameters for the entire system rather than simply on a project by project basis, and will help us to address more of the system's critical projects now in order to complete them more efficiently,” Martin continued.

The recommendations would preserve the existing 50/50 (50% industry/50% federal) cost-sharing formula for new lock construction and major rehabilitation projects costing \$100 million or more, while adjusting the current model to provide that dam construction and smaller rehabilitation projects would be 100% federally funded. These adjustments recognize the value derived by other beneficiaries of dams and the pools created by dams.

Also recommended is a cost-share cap on all new lock construction projects that would preserve the Inland Waterways Trust Fund by preventing the industry from having to fund significant cost overruns.

These new recommendations would necessitate an increase in the 20-cents-per-gallon fuel tax currently paid by the barge and towing industry, the only users of the system who are taxed. Industry spokespersons called the increase an investment by industry in order to improve the future viability and efficiency of America's inland waterways system.

“We must address the needs of our inland transportation system so that we can continue to move commerce efficiently on the inland waterways system, and we urge Congress to act on this pathway forward now,” Martin concluded.

NWC President Amy Larson echoed those sentiments in urging the Congress to adopt the proposal this year, noting that crucial infrastructure that is essential to our economic security and quality of life is not being properly rehabilitated or recapitalized.

AWO President & CEO Thomas Allegretti asserted, “This comprehensive package of recommendations deserves the support of every member of Congress who values our nation's unique inland waterways transportation system and the benefits it delivers to America's economy, environment, national security and quality of life. It is a thoughtfully constructed package of process improvements and funding mechanisms that will enhance the reliability of our nation's most efficient transportation and strengthen U.S. global competitiveness.”

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.

The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is the national organization to advocate for the enactment of common sense policies recognizing the widespread public benefits of our nation's water resources infrastructure. Membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water districts, engineering consultants and state and local governments. www.waterways.org

The American Waterways Operators is the national trade association of the inland and coastal tugboat, towboat and barge industry. Established in 1944, AWO's mission is to promote the long term economic soundness of the industry, and to enhance the industry's ability to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible transportation, through advocacy, public information, and the establishment of safety standards. Visit www.americanwaterways.com.

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Supporters of the Inland Waterways Capital Development Plan (as of April 13, 2010)

Organizations

The American Waterways Operators
National Waterways Conference, Inc.
Waterways Council, Inc.
Alabama State Port Authority
American Land Conservancy
American Soybean Association
Association of Tennessee Valley Governments
Bond County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Bureau County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Calhoun County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC)
Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity
Carroll County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Clark County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Coalition of Alabama Waterway Associations, Inc.
Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association, Inc.
DeWitt County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
DeWitt (Mo.) Drainage and Levee District
Dredging Contractors of America
Grain & Feed Association of Illinois
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Huntington District Waterways Association
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals, Inc.
International Liquid Terminals Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Jasper County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Kane County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kingdom of Callaway (Mo.) Chamber of Commerce
Knox County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
LaSalle County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Little Rock Port Authority
Louisiana Association of Waterway Operators and Shipyards
Mason County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
McDonough County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Menard County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Mercer County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
MidCentral Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters
Minnesota Chapter of ASFMRA
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Mississippi Water Resources Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Levee & Drainage District Association
Mo-Ark Association
Montgomery County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
National Association of Manufacturers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
North American Equipment Dealers Association
Ogle County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Ohio Corn Growers Association
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA)
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
Peoria County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Pike and Scott County (Ill.) Farm Bureaus
Port of Cincinnati, LLC
Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans
Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Port of Portland (Oregon)
Red River Valley Association
Rock Island County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Sangamon County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Stark County Farm (Ill.) Bureau
Steel Manufacturers Association
Stephenson County (Ill.) Farm Bureau

Tennessee Cumberland Waterways Council
Tennessee River Valley Association
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority
Texas Waterways Operators Association
Transportation Research Board/Marine Board
Tri Rivers Waterway Development Assoc.
Tulsa Port of Catoosa
Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association
Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Whiteside County (Ill.) Farm Bureau
Will County (Ill.) Farm Bureau

Companies

Advantus Strategies, LLC
AEP River Operations
Agriservices Of Brunswick, LLC
Alter Barge Line, Inc.
American Commercial Lines
American Inland Ports, LLC
American River Transportation Company
Artco Fleeting Service
B&G Towing LLC/Acme Marine LLC
Bayou Fleet Inc.
Bludworth Marine LLC
Blue Danube Incorporated
Brennan Marine, Inc
Brunswick River Terminal, Inc.
Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.
C&C Marina Maintenance Company
Campbell Transportation Company
Canal Barge Company, Inc.
Cargill, Inc.
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.
CGB Enterprises, Inc.
Channel Shipyard Companies
CHS Inc.
Cincinnati Bulk Terminals, LLC
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
Clarkson Grain Company Inc.
Colusa Elevator Co.
CONSOL Energy
Crouse Corporation
Deloach Marine
FirstEnergy Solutions

Grain Processing Corporation
GROWMARK
Hartsburg Grain Company
Holcim (US) Inc.
Ingram Barge Company
Inland Marine Service
The Integra Group, Inc.
J.A.M. Marine Services, LLC
Kirby Corporation
K-Sea Transportation Partners LP
Lafayette Workboat Rentals, LLC
Magnolia Marine Transport Co.
Marathon Petroleum Company LLC
MARMAC, LLC d/b/a McDonough Marine Service
Marquette Transportation Company, LLC
McNational Inc.
Natures Way Marine, LLC
New Orleans Shipyard
Northern Partners Cooperative
Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa, Inc.
Osterholt Farms
Parker Towing Company
Rentech Energy Midwest
Sause Bros., Inc.
Smurfit Stone Container Corporation
T & T Marine Salvage, Inc.
Thomson, Rhodes & Cowie P.C.
Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc.
TradeWinds Towing LLC
Trinity Marine Products, Inc.
Turn Services, LLC
Twomey Company
United Ocean Services
Upper River Services LLC
Valero Energy
Volunteer Barge & Transport Inc.
The Waterways Journal, Inc.