

# NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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August 29, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Waterways infrastructure is crucial to America – Bring H.R.1495, Water Resources Development Act 2007 to the floor immediately!**

Dear Senators:

We thank you for your efforts thus far, to ensure that our water resources infrastructure, from our coastlines to our inland rivers and Great Lakes, will continue to be viable. With the recent action of the Conference Committee, WRDA 2007 - H.R.1495 – is now ready for floor action! We respectfully request that this **imperative piece of legislation, WRDA 2007, be voted upon by the United States Senate immediately upon its return from the August recess!** WRDA 2007 has an effect on the lives of ordinary Americans and this crucial infrastructure investment should not languish for another week!

This bill would authorize vital inland and coastal infrastructure projects needed for transportation, flood control, shore protection and environmental restoration, including locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River system, restoration of the Louisiana coast and the Everglades.

Our water resources system contributes mightily to our nation's well-being. With adequate dredging, our ports and waterways are the backbone of our transportation system—ensuring domestic and international trade opportunities and low-cost, environmentally sensitive goods movements. Our flood damage reduction program saves lives and prevents almost \$8 in damages for each dollar spent. Corps hydropower facilities provide electricity to 24% of the U.S. population. Shore protection projects provide safety from hurricanes and other storm events for transportation, petroleum and agriculture infrastructure around our coastal waterways and deltas. They also provide recreational benefits, returning \$4 in benefits for each dollar invested. Projects for water supply, irrigation, recreation and wildlife habitat provide innumerable benefits.

WRDA 2007 – H.R.1495 contains common sense policies that further the goal of interactive environmentalism and provides our children an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

Your efforts will be rewarded in ensuring that our water resources infrastructure remains a monument to the greatness of the United States.

Sincerely,



An alliance of waterway related businesses in aluminum, building materials, cement, chemical, coal, grain and feed, fertilizer, iron and steel, salt, paper and wood products, petroleum, and other industries; port authorities; labor unions; water carriers; river valley and industry associations; banks; utilities; agricultural and electric power cooperatives; flood control and coastal protection proponents; dredging and waterway service firms; shipyards and repair facilities, and terminals, serving millions of customers, clients and consumers. Visit our website: [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org).

Port of Lake Charles  
Portland Cement Association  
Port of South Louisiana  
Garick Corporation  
Bergmann Associates  
Morrow Group USA, Inc.  
HDR  
Red River Valley Association  
SCI Engineering, Inc.  
DiMatter & Associates, Inc.  
Commodity Markets Council  
Transportation, Elevator and Grain Merchants Association  
Port of Lake Providence  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Grange  
Ouachita River Valley Association  
Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District  
Arkansas Waterways Commission  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation  
Johnson Machine Works  
INCA Engineers  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
SCI Engineering, Inc.  
CHS, Inc.  
Great River Economic Development Foundation  
White River Coalition  
Arkansas Waterways Association  
Port of Portland  
Upper Monongahela River Association Incorporated  
Cooper Marine & Timberlands Corporation  
Bay Planning Coalition  
Port of South Louisiana  
JT Chaisson  
Salt Institute  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation, Waterways Branch  
Waterways Advisory Board, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation  
Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association  
Arkansas River Basin Development Association, Inc.  
American Society of Civil Engineers

Dredging Contractors of America  
Design Professionals Coalition  
Johnston's Port 33  
Johnston Enterprises, Inc.  
Johnston Seed Co., Inc.  
Shattuck Grain Co.  
CH2M HILL  
National Corn Growers Association  
Waterways Towing & OffShore Services, Inc.  
Rodger D. Harris and Associates  
Professional Environmental Engineers, Inc.  
Volunteer Barge  
Pemiscot County Port Authority  
Missouri Port Authority Association  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Port of Pittsburgh Commission  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Salt Institute  
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association  
Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Boaters Are Voters