



November 22, 2013

Dear WRDAWRRDA Conferees:

As you gather to develop and merge the HR 3080 and S 601 versions, our associations would greatly appreciate the consideration of keeping Section 2024 of the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act.

As you are aware, the inland river system is critical to our national economy, contributing to: \$462 billion worth of goods being transported through our ports, 30 million jobs related to international trade and \$200 billion in tax dollars generated by our ports every year. Our inland river system provides low-cost and environmentally safe transportation of goods and unfortunately, it is an often overlooked, yet extremely important component of our national multimodal transportation system.

The dredging study in Section 2024 of S 601, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is vital to the economic survival of the inland waterway system and the communities along the rivers. A study that compares domestic and international dredging solutions, practices and technologies is needed to determine if the efforts currently being used on our system are appropriate for the expected growth of our industry's needs. The study will positively impact the future of dredging by identifying best techniques, methods and technologies and improve future practices.

IRPT, UMRBA and CORBA commend you on your strong leadership on national transportation issues, and we would greatly appreciate your continued support of this critical area of our national freight system. On behalf of all our members, I want to thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendation on the inland waterway system. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wilmsmeyer, President  
Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals,  
Inc.

Dru Buntin, Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin  
Association

David Hammond, Jr., President  
Central Ohio River Business  
Association