



WATERWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE

Passing the Water Resources Development Act

www.ngfa.org

OVERVIEW

Timely and efficient implementation of waterways infrastructure legislation is extremely important as most U.S. locks and dams have surpassed their expected 50-year design life, threatening to erode America's comparative infrastructure advantage.

Waterways Infrastructure Priorities:

- Continue to pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) on a biennial, bipartisan basis to maintain a two-year authorization schedule.
- Remove obstacles for fully implementing outstanding provisions from previous WRDA bills.
- The Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF), a diesel fuel tax repository paid into by commercial operators, should be matched by General Treasury funds per the cost share enacted and amended in WRDA 2020 and 2022.
 - NGFA supports the permanent cost-share recently passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) of 75 percent from general revenues and 25 percent from the IWTF (compared to the current 65/35 cost-share).
- Include full federal funding for projects funded in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- NGFA supports the "Thomas R. Carper Water Resource Development Act of 2024" passed out of Senate EPW.

Importance of Inland Waterways

- The U.S. inland waterways system supports around 540,000 jobs, reduces highway congestion and disciplines potentially egregious railroad shipping rates.
- Barges move about half of all grains to export grain elevators, including 48 percent of corn, 62 percent of soybeans and 47 percent of wheat.
- A single 15-barge tow transports the same amount of cargo as 216 rail cars and 1,050 semi-trucks. In the PNW, a 4-barge tow transports the same amount as 140 rail cars and 538 semi-trucks.



NGFA MEMBERS

- Handle U.S. grains and oilseeds in domestic and export markets.
- Encompass all sectors of the industry and represent small and large companies, privately owned businesses and cooperatives.
- Include country elevators, feed mills, export elevators, cash grain and feed merchandisers, commodity futures brokers and commission merchants, end users of grain and grain products, and allied industries.

NGFA MISSION

Advocate a global open market environment to efficiently produce and provide a safe, abundant, affordable, sustainable and wholesome supply of grain, oilseeds, feed and related products responsive to market demand.

STEPHANIE SEE

NGFA Vice President
Legislative and Public Affairs
ssee@ngfa.org
443.812.9677