# WATERWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE

Passing the Water Resources Development Act

www.ngfa.org

### OVERVIEW

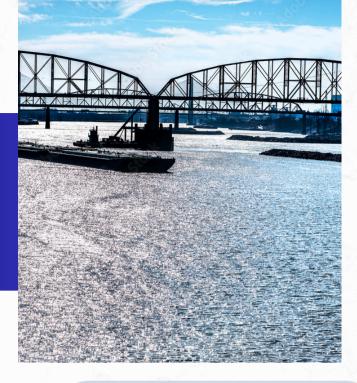
Timely and efficient implementation of waterways infrastructure legislation is extremely important as most U.S. locks and dams have surpassed their expected 50-year design life, threatening to erode America's comparative infrastructure advantage.

#### **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 semitrucks.



## 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