

October 26, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you sign into law the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA).

For continued success, U.S. farmers need efficient transportation networks, which is why we have been long-time advocates for improvements to our inland waterway system. WRDA is crucial to farmers who depend on the inland waterway system to deliver their crops to the global marketplace and to businesses who rely on the system to move their raw materials and products.

Specifically, WRDA would authorize a 15-year project that includes modernization of seven locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Additionally, WRDA includes a balanced, science-based environmental restoration program that recognizes the river's environmental value and potential.

After many years of hard work, Congress has produced a meaningful and responsible legislative package that addresses issues such as environmental restoration, navigation, flood control, hurricane protection, water supply, irrigation and beach nourishment and recreation. Improvements in these areas will serve us well in the years to come.

We applauded the House of Representatives for overwhelmingly passing the WRDA conference report by a vote of 381 to 40 in August. The Senate followed suit by handily passing the conference report 81 to 12 earlier this month.

It has been many years since a reauthorization of WRDA. Our producers cannot afford to wait any longer. If we fail to move forward, the world will look elsewhere for a reliable supplier of basic food commodities. Therefore, signing WRDA would be a strong signal of your commitment to a world-class waterways infrastructure and the competitiveness of American agriculture.

We strongly urge you to sign WRDA into law.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
Corn Refiners Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
Renewable Fuels Association
The Fertilizer Institute