



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **WATERWAYS COUNCIL, INC.** **GRATIFIED BY WRDA 2016 PASSAGE IN HOUSE AND SENATE** **URGES FINAL WRDA PASSAGE IN LAME DUCK**

Washington, DC – Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI) today praised the House passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, which followed Senate passage of the bill on September 15. Both House and Senate WRDA 2016 bills contain a WCI priority to authorize, with Chief’s Reports, Calcasieu Lock modifications in Louisiana, deepening of Brazos Island Harbor (Brownsville Ship Channel) in Texas, and the Upper Ohio Study that allows the Emsworth, Dashiields and Montgomery (EDM) lock project near Pittsburgh to advance. Neither bill contained an onerous provision to create a Public-Private Partnership (P3) that could have imposed waterways tolls or lockage fees, resulting in an adverse change in the cost-sharing mechanism for the Inland Waterways Transportation System. In late 2014, commercial operators successfully increased their user fee by 45% to \$.29 per gallon as a way to increase investment in inland waterways lock and dam infrastructure.

After a seven-year delay between bills (WRDA 2007 to WRRDA 2014), WCI praised the Committee’s leadership for the return to a two-year, regular order for WRDA legislation.

Michael Toohey, WCI President/CEO, said, “The Nation’s towboat operators, shippers, labor, port, conservation and agriculture members that rely on an efficient, modern, viable waterways system -- are deeply appreciative for the House and Senate passage of WRDA 2016. WCI commends the bipartisan leadership of Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer; Transportation Subcommittee Chairman David Vitter; House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio; and Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs and Ranking Subcommittee Member Grace Napolitano.

“We urge a good outcome on a conference report and for President Obama to sign a WRDA 2016 bill into law to create and sustain American jobs, increase exports, keep our nation competitive in world markets, and enhance the reliability of this essential waterways transportation mode,” he continued.

*Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating for a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways. The group is supported by waterways carriers, shippers, port authorities, agriculture, labor and conservation organizations, shipping associations and waterways advocacy groups from all regions of the country. Visit [www.waterwayscouncil.org](http://www.waterwayscouncil.org).*