Waterways Council, Inc.
801 N. Quincy Street • Suite 200 • Arlington, VA 22203
waterwayscouncil@vesselalliance.com

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Hatch:

The undersigned 82 organizations strongly support an increase in the user fee that barge and towing companies pay into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to modernize the inland waterways system. This user fee – currently 20-cents-per-gallon of fuel used while operating on the inland system — should be increased to 26- to 29-cents-per-gallon. This amount is matched by General Treasury Funds and is dedicated to new construction and major rehabilitation of the inland waterways system. This user fee increase is supported by those who pay it – just 300 commercial operators– while the entire nation benefits, including hydropower, municipal water supply, recreational boating and fishing, flood control, national security, and waterfront property development. We hope that members of the Senate Finance Committee will support inclusion of an increase to the user fee in comprehensive tax reform or any appropriate revenue measure ahead.

The inland waterways provide capacity and the most cost-competitive transportation option for our bulk commodities used in America and exported to marketplaces worldwide. The facts are clear:

- 60% of the nation's export-bound grain is transported on the inland waterways.
- An effective and efficient water transport system is essential to supply American farmers with fertilizer for Spring and Fall planting seasons.
- Farmers depend on our waterways' infrastructure to compete and win against producers outside the USA.
- The soon to be completed Panama Canal expansion will create opportunities for increased American trade, but not if our channels are not dredged and our locks and dams are not functioning.
- American family-wage jobs depend on operational ports and inland waterways.
- The waterways are vital to our manufacturing sectors and to the construction industry.
- American consumers benefit from transportation cost-savings made possible by the inland waterways; for every $1invested in our inland waterways, $10 is returned in national benefits.

Most of America's locks and dams were built in the 1920s and 1930s, yet are used to transport 21st century cargoes that fuel our modern economy. This critical component of the transportation supply chain needs reinvestment and recapitalization, and any appropriate revenue bill that includes an industry sought increase in the user fee it pays is fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National/International Organizations: Agricultural Retailers Association ▪ American Farm Bureau Federation ▪ American Soybean Association ▪ American Waterways Operators ▪ Associated General Contractors of America ▪ Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO ▪ Cargill ▪ CHS Inc. ▪ The Fertilizer Institute ▪ GROWMARK, Inc. ▪ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ▪ International Union of Operating Engineers ▪ Laborers' International Union of North America ▪ National Association of Manufacturers ▪ National Association of Wheat Growers ▪ National Barley Growers Association ▪ National Corn Growers Association ▪ National Council of Farmer Cooperatives ▪ National Grain and Feed Association ▪ National Oilseed Processors Association ▪ National Sunflower Association ▪ North America's Building Trades Unions ▪ United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters ▪ United Brotherhood of Carpenters ▪ US Canola Association ▪ US Chamber of Commerce ▪ US Dry Bean Council ▪ Waterways Council, Inc.

State Organizations: Arkansas Soybean Association ▪ Carpenters' District Council of St. Louis & Vicinity ▪ Colorado Corn Growers Association ▪ Corn Producers Association of Texas ▪ Ducks Unlimited St. Louis Blackducks Chapter ▪ Illinois Corn Growers Association ▪ Infrastructure Council of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce ▪ Illinois Farm Bureau ▪ Illinois Soybean Growers ▪ Indiana Corn Growers Association ▪ Indiana Soybean Alliance ▪ Iowa Corn Growers Association ▪ Iowa Soybean Association ▪ Illinois Soybean Association ▪ Kansas Soybean Association ▪ Kentucky Corn Growers Association ▪ Kentucky Soybean Association ▪ Michigan Soybean Association ▪ Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association ▪ Nebraska Soybean Association ▪ North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters ▪ Missouri Corn Growers Association ▪ Nebraska Corn Board ▪ Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association ▪ Ohio Soybean Association ▪ Pennsylvania Farm Bureau ▪ Tennessee Soybean Association

Regional Organizations: Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters ▪ Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters

City/County Organizations: Adams County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Brown County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Calhoun County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Cook County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Ford-Iroquois County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Henry County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Kankakee County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Knox County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ LaSalle County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Lee County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Madison County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Massac County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Mercer County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Peoria County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Pike County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Pulaski-Alexander County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Rock Island County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Sangamon County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Scott County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ St. Clair County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Vermilion County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Wayne County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ White County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Will County (Illinois) Farm Bureau ▪ Winnebago-Boone County (Illinois) Farm Bureau

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

National Association of Manufacturers

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cargill

Agricultural Retailers Association

National Barley Growers Association

NOPA National Oilseed Processors Association

CHS

NGFA

AGC of America — The Associated General Contractors of America — Quality People. Quality Projects.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

International Union of Operating Engineers

Laborers' International Union of North America

Building Construction Trades Dept. AFL-CIO

North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

ASA American Soybean Association

Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters

Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity

North America's Building Trades Unions — Value on Display. Every Day.

Plumbers · Union · Pipefitters · Sprinklerfitters · Steamfitters · Service Techs

NCFC National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

GROWMARK

NCGA

The Fertilizer Institute — Nourish, Replenish, Grow

US Dry Bean Council

The American Waterways Operators

National Association of Wheat Growers

Waterways Council, Inc.

Iowa Soybean Assoc. 50 Years — Serving Farmers

National Sunflower Association

Kansas Soybean Association

International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers

Corn Growers' Association — Kentucky

tn soybean association

colorado Corn

Illinois Corn Growers Association

Kentucky Soybean Association

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Indiana Corn Growers Association

Ohio Soybean Association

NSA Nebraska Soybean Association

Illinois Farm Bureau — Farm. Family. Food.™

Nebraska Corn Board

Indiana Soybean Alliance

U.S. Canola Association

Iowa Corn Growers Association

Michigan Soybean Association

Voice for Soy — Illinois Soybean Growers

Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association

Texas Corn Producers

Arkansas Soybean Association

Infrastructure