



The Waterways Are the **Greenest Way to Go** on Earth Day and Every Day

Barge transportation on our nation's waterways is the most environmentally friendly way to move bulk commodities that are vital to the U.S. economy and to Americans' quality of life. In 2014, 604 million tons of cargo valued at \$232 billion moved on the inland waterways system. These are cargoes that the nation—and the world—depend upon, like grain, soybeans, petroleum, chemicals, salt, sand, construction materials, and more.

CAPACITY COUNTS

Towboats can push many barges at one time. One 15-barge tow carries as much cargo as 1,050 semi-trucks, or six locomotives pulling 216 rail cars.

HATE TRAFFIC? WATER TRANSPORTATION RELIEVES ROAD AND RAIL CONGESTION

Keeping cargo on the water instead of our highways means 51 million fewer trips by truck on our already overcrowded roads. In fact, if all the cargo that currently moves by inland barge throughout the country were put in tractor trailers evenly distributed across our nation's rural interstate highway system, truck traffic on the interstate system would increase by a whopping 83%.

Moving that cargo by rail would increase the nation's rail tonnage by 25%.

FRESH AIR, CLEAN WATERWAYS ... BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CLEANEST MODE

No other mode of transportation compares to barges in minimizing carbon dioxide emissions. Based on emissions of CO2 per-million-ton-miles of cargo moved, trucks emit 171.83 tons, rail emits 21.35 tons, while barges produce only 16.41 tons.

Barge transportation minimizes noise and air pollution as vessels glide silently through the water, away from shorelines and population centers.

The towing industry strongly supports the ecological health of the waterways and its eco-habitats. We work together with national conservation organizations and support a waterways clean-up group that has removed more than 500,000 pounds of debris from the Mississippi River alone.

SAFETY IS JOB ONE

Barges have the highest and best safety record. Of spills greater than 1,000 gallons, the spill rate for trucking is four times that of barges. Barge design features such as double hulls and a comprehensive set of requirements for equipment, personnel and liability administered by the U.S. Coast Guard have combined with industry initiatives such as safety management systems and shipper vetting programs to dramatically reduce spills over the last two decades.

EFFICIENCY EFFECTS

Modern trucks can move a ton of cargo 150 miles for each gallon of fuel burned. Newer railroad locomotives can move that cargo 478 ton-miles per gallon, but barges pushed by towboats can move it 616 ton-miles per gallon.

BARGING INTO THE FUTURE

Our inland waterways are a critical solution to the nation's transportation challenges today and for the future. The waterways transportation option is the most cost-competitive, fuel-efficient, congestion-relieving mode with the smallest environmental footprint.

The inland waterways system also provides additional benefits for flood control, water supply, irrigation and electric power production that contribute to the quality of life for American communities.

CONTACTS:

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