



April 27, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Energy and Water Development
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Chairman Simpson:

On behalf of more than 42,000 corn farmers nationwide represented by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), I write to thank you for your leadership in moving forward the Fiscal Year 2016 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which provides needed resources for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program to modernize and maintain our nation's waterways.

The U.S. waterways infrastructure system provides U.S. corn farmers the ability to efficiently and competitively serve domestic and global markets. Failure to modernize and maintain our nation's inland waterways system has left it in poor condition. As a result, those of us who depend on our water infrastructure for navigation and commerce are not able to utilize it to its full extent and potential, and we are, instead forced to rely upon other modes of transportation.

The FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill provides \$5.597 billion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works mission, an increase of \$142.25 million from FY 2015. Additionally, we are supportive of the \$340 million made available for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund priority navigation projects, which makes full use of estimated annual revenues. This provision is particularly important in light of last year's passage of the 9-cent increase in the barge diesel user fee.

Sincerely,

Chip Bowling
President

CC: Members of the House of Representatives

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