



November 2021

The Honorable Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. We look forward to working with you.

We write urging you to fund construction of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) on the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) by allocating some of the \$2.5 billion provided by the recent passage of the bipartisan infrastructure package to Lock and Dam 25 on the Mississippi River and LaGrange Lock and Dam on the Illinois.

Funding NESP follows the Corps (December 2020) draft Capital Investment Strategy (CIS), developed collaboratively with the Inland Waterways Users Board and endorsed by the industry. Per H.R. 3684, in using funds from this bill, priority shall be given to projects included in the CIS. Specifically, the next two priority projects on this list are Lock and Dam 25 and LaGrange Lock and Dam. These NESP projects have been awaiting funding since the passage of WRDA 2007.

Inclusion of NESP in the Corps workplan would bring positive impacts on reducing our transportation carbon footprint while bolstering the US economy. Our nation’s inland navigation system provides a key strategic advantage to our manufacturing sector, the agriculture community truly relies on locks and dams. More than 60 percent of grain exports travel down the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, keeping America’s farmers competitive in the global market.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

IL Corn Growers Association

IL Soybean Growers

IL Farm Bureau

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

IL Fertilizer and Chemical Association

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