



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. Our organization is excited to work with you.

Moving forward, we urge you to fund construction of the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) on the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) by utilizing the \$2.5 billion provided by the recent passage of the bipartisan infrastructure package to fund the completion of Lock and Dam 25 on the Mississippi River and LaGrange Lock and Dam on the Illinois River.

Funding NESP follows the Corps (December 2020) draft Capital Investment Strategy (CIS), developed 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 in 2007.

Inclusion of NESP in the Corps workplan would reduce our transportation carbon footprint while stimulating the US economy. Our nation's inland waterways provide a strategic advantage to corn growers and the agriculture community at large, which relies heavily on locks and dams to provide cost effective and efficient passage for its commodities. More than 60 percent of grain exports travel down the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, which ensures American farmers maintain a competitive edge in the global market.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Edgington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

Chris Edgington  
President  
National Corn Growers Association