

November 6, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

The undersigned organizations appreciate your willingness to expeditiously act to consider the President's veto of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA). WRDA is crucial to farmers who depend on the inland waterway system to deliver their crops to the global marketplace and to businesses which rely on the system to move their raw materials and products.

In the seven years since the Congress passed the last WRDA bill, a significant number of needs have arisen for our nation's inland waterways. This WRDA bill addresses many of those issues by authorizing critical projects on the inland waterways, including the modernization of seven locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River, a project that will dramatically improve our ability to deliver crops to the global marketplace. Additionally, WRDA addresses issues such as environmental restoration, port modernization, flood control, hurricane protection, water supply, irrigation and beach nourishment and recreation. Improvements in these areas will serve us well in the years to come.

Enactment of this WRDA bill is long overdue and our producers cannot afford to wait any longer. If we fail to move forward, the world will look elsewhere for a reliable supplier of basic food commodities.

We deeply appreciate your efforts to have WRDA enacted into law this year and urge that all members vote to override the President's veto of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
Renewable Fuels Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
United Egg Producers