



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:

On behalf of the more than 32,000 members of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), we call on Congress to do what the Administration wouldn't; enact the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA).

The continued development of our water resources in an environmentally sound manner will contribute mightily to the well-being of the nation. WRDA represents a meaningful and responsible legislative package that addresses issues such as environmental restoration, navigation, 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.

Our country's inland navigation system plays a critical role in our economy, moving more than 1 billion tons of domestic commerce valued at more than \$300 billion. More than 1 billion bushels of grain (approximately 60 percent of all grain exports) move to export markets via the inland waterways each year, accounting for \$8.5 billion in exports.

For continued success, U.S. farmers need efficient transportation networks, which is why corn growers have been long-time advocates for improvements to our inland waterway system. Specifically, WRDA would authorize a 15-year project that includes modernization of seven locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers as well as a major ecosystem restoration initiative. As with our highways and interchanges, the purpose of modernization on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers is to make the entire system more efficient.

We are most grateful for your leadership in moving forward with consideration of the President's veto of WRDA. Congress has shown a sound understanding of the dependence of American daily lives on reliable water resources infrastructure and programs as well as their contributions in supporting a sound economy and a sustainable environment for the future.

We urge that all members vote to override the president's veto of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Litterer".

Ron Litterer  
President

cc: U.S. Senate