



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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May 19, 2014

The Honorable
TO ALL MEMBERS OF HOUSE AND SENATE
XXXX Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear :

As the House and Senate begin consideration of the conference report to H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014* (WRRDA), the American Farm Bureau Federation is writing to convey our strong support for passage of this important bill. WRRDA will help modernize the lock and dam infrastructure on the inland waterways system while making necessary investments in our ports. Farm Bureau believes having an efficient and reliable inland waterway system linked to competitive ports is vital to America's ability to provide affordable agricultural products domestically and to compete internationally.

Given their ability to move large amounts of cargo, the nation's inland waterways are a strategic, economic and military resource. Forty-one states, including all states east of the Mississippi River and 16 state capitols, are served by commercially navigable waterways. Over 60 percent of America's grain exports and many other important commodities such as fuel, coal and agricultural inputs also move through our inland waterway system. Due to this importance, Farm Bureau policy explicitly supports the maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure including the lock and dam system and other vital waterway infrastructure. Our membership views passage of a WRRDA bill as a priority issue.

Construction, dredging and repairs to our vital marine transportation system will help ensure the reliability of the most affordable, energy efficient and environmentally-sustainable mode of transporting agricultural products. Farm Bureau urges you to vote in support of WRRDA. Doing so will put America's inland waterways and port infrastructure on a solid and sustainable foundation to contribute to U.S. economic growth, jobs and global competitiveness for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Stallman'.

Bob Stallman
President