

February 3, 2009

Senator Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
361 A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to support passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and to support all efforts to increase investment in water resources infrastructure. Our nation faces challenging economic times. To meet these challenges, there is a need for significant investment in our nation's infrastructure as a means of providing an immediate and lasting impact on our economy.

We urge your support of the Landrieu Amendment, which would provide a total of \$9.78 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to invest in our nation's water resources. The Corps has the ability and the capability to execute these additional funds, and could actually execute as much as \$12 billion in stimulus funding, financing approximately 550 construction and 1,100 operating projects by the end of FY 2010.

This investment would provide an immediate stimulative effect on the economy as soon as obligations are made by USACE. Firms engaged in this work can begin hiring labor and engaging subcontractors. Suppliers would begin to receive purchase orders that must be fulfilled. Thus, even before actual construction begins, businesses and workers would be making purchases that will create jobs. Accordingly, USACE will be able to put stimulus funds to use on projects that are ready to go with little delay.

As this process moves forward, we understand that you will be faced with many difficult decisions. This amount of investment is large compared to previous federal funding. However, the proposed funding is modest compared to the lists of "shovel-ready" projects compiled by several associations of public officials. It is also far less than the available capacity of the construction and materials industries, especially since the bill would spread investment across many types of infrastructure. In addition, every estimate that has been made by federal agencies and academic institutions of water resources infrastructure needs is much greater than the funding provided by S.1.

Again, we urge you to support the Landrieu Amendment and other efforts to increase infrastructure investment in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,

**Water Resources Coalition
AEP
Alter Barge Line**

American Association of Port Authorities
American Commercial Barge Lines
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Great Lakes Ports Association
American Land Conservancy
American Public Works Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Soybean Association
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
American Waterways Operators
Arkansas Waterways Association
The Associated General Contractors of America
Association of California Water Agencies
AT Holdings, LLC
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary
Bergmann Associates
Blue Danube Incorporated
Brennan Marine, Inc.
Brunswick – Dalton Drainage District L-246
Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.
Burlington/West Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce
C & C Marine Maintenance
Campbell Transportation
Canal Barge Company
Canaveral Port Authority
Carpenters District Council of Greater St. Louis Vicinity
Central Gulf Lines, Inc.
Ceres Consulting, LLC
Channel Shipyard Companies
Charles Bell Associates
CHS, Inc.
CITGO
Coalition to Protect the Missouri River
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Coast Builders Coalition
Colusa Elevator Company
Crouse Corporation
Delta Chapter Sierra Club
Dredging Contractors of America
EMR USA – Southern Recycling
The Everglades Foundation
The Everglades Trust
Florida Inland Navigation District
Freeport Terminals
Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Inc.

Georgia Port Authority
Grain Acres, Inc.
GRIFCO/DG Marine Transportation, LLC
Golding Barge Line, Inc.
Gulf States Maritime Association
Harris County Flood Control District (Texas)
Henderson Partnership
HDR
Horine Grain, Inc.
Hunter Marine
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Ingram Barge Company
Inland Marine Service
Inland Waterways Users Board
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 513
Iowa Corn Growers Association
JB Marine Service, Inc.
Jersey Shore Partnership
Kansas City Industrial Council
Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc.
Louisiana Interchurch Conference Stewardship of the Environment Commission
Luman Offutt Farms, Inc.
M & C Partnership
Man O'War, LLC
McDonough Marine Service
McNational, Inc.
Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association
Mo-Ark Association
Nail Farms, LLC
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
National Association of Manufacturers
National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
Northeast Missouri Building and Trades Council
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Parker Towing Company, Inc.
Phylway Construction, LLC
Port of Great Baton Rouge
Port of Iberia District
Port of Miami
Port of Morgan City
Port of New Orleans

Port of Palm Beach
Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Port of Portland
Port of South Louisiana
Portland Cement Association
Pittsburgh Intermodal Terminals
Ray-Clay Farms, Inc.
The Raymond Basin Management Board, Azusa, California
Shaw Coastal, Inc.
Shaw E & I
Shirley Land Company
Southern Illinois Builders Association
Stream Wetland Services
Tennessee River Valley Association
Texas Water Conservation Association
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Triple Crown Towing, LLC
Turn Services, LLC
Twomey Company
Two Rivers Economic Development
Upper Mississippi Waterways Association
Upper Monongahela River Association
Upper River Services, LLC
Vermilion Faith Community of Care
Vulcan Materials
War Admiral, LLC
Waters Farms, Inc.
Waterways Council Inc.
Welcome Fleet, LLC
WePeCo, Inc.
Western Coalition of Arid States
Western Kentucky Navigation, Inc.
Wheeler Farms