

December 4, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Hatch:

The undersigned organizations, which represent farmers, grain elevators, grain processors and millers, feed manufacturers, and others who produce and distribute our nation's food, feed, fuel, and fiber, strongly urge the U.S. Senate to pass S. 2955, "*A Bill to Revise the Inland Waterways Trust Fund Financing Rate.*"

S. 2955, introduced by Senators Casey, Alexander, Harkin, Klobuchar and Franken, would increase the inland waterways user fee by 9 cents per gallon. Commercial vessel operators currently pay 20 cents per gallon, which is deposited in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and is used to finance lock-and-dam construction and major rehabilitation.

The increase to 29 cents per gallon is supported by both barge carriers and their customers — the agricultural shippers that include our members — to provide the financial wherewithal to make the necessary improvements to our nation's waterways infrastructure. This provision is essential to the rehabilitation and maintenance of the inland waterways system, and thus our future global competitiveness. Therefore, we urge the Senate immediately pass S. 2955.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Sunflower Association
North American Millers' Association
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate