

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President  
Policy and Government Relations

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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the conference report to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Manufacturers applaud conferees for reaching a bipartisan agreement that authorizes two years of continued investment in the nation's inland and coastal waterways and begins critical reforms to the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program that will enhance delivery of key infrastructure projects.

The nation's inland waterways help keep transportation costs competitive and are an important means of transport for manufacturers and other industrial shippers, moving products and commodities valued at \$185 billion annually. With over half the locks exceeding their design life, the need to modernize is well-documented and efforts to address the unreliability of aging locks and dams along our inland waterways must be boosted beyond this current authorization.

Manufacturers also appreciate the conferees' commitment to addressing the issue of underinvestment in our nation's ports and harbors by directing additional levels of funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) for critical harbor maintenance projects. To aid our ports in accommodating larger and more efficient ships, increasing expenditures from the HMTF is a strategic and long-term goal that will help manufacturers access new markets and keep pace with global competition.

Our nation needs investments and a modern infrastructure that keep us globally competitive and manufacturers will continue to champion investments and improvements to our nation's infrastructure that help manufacturers' compete and create jobs.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 3080, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 113th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote