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The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Vitter:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) appreciates the bipartisan effort you have undertaken to develop the Water Resources Development Act of 2013, S. 601. This critical legislation ensures continued investment in the nation's inland and coastal waterways and begins reforms to the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program that will enhance delivery of key infrastructure projects. In addition, manufacturers appreciate the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) pilot program that will help leverage investments in water and wastewater projects.

The nation's inland waterways help keep transportation costs competitive and are a critical means of transport for manufacturers and other industrial shippers, moving products and commodities valued at \$78 billion. The legislation also addresses the long-standing issue of underinvestment in our nation's ports and harbors by ensuring funds collected into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are fully used for intended harbor maintenance purposes.

The opening of the Panama Canal expansion project in 2015, the goal of doubling the nation's export capacity and the need to support continued economic recovery provide a mandate for Congress to advance S. 601. Manufacturers believe that the legislation can be enhanced to make the nation's vast inland waterway system more efficient and competitive. The framework provided by the Reinvesting in Vital Economic Rivers and Waterways (RIVER) Act of 2013, S. 407, should be included in any final version of S. 601. A comprehensive capital development plan is necessary to achieve the full potential of a robust inland waterway system.

To serve global markets successfully, grow manufacturing and create jobs here, increasing investments in all modes of transportation are required to keep pace with our global competitors. Investing in and completing infrastructure projects at ports, harbors and inland waterways are essential to maintaining the nation's economic competitiveness and supporting an export economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important issue to manufacturers.

Sincerely,

