



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution on the Importance of America's Inland Waterway System for a Healthy National Economy

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3 **WHEREAS**, 541,000 American jobs are directly tied to our inland river navigation system and investment
4 in its lock and dam infrastructure produces a high rate of return to the nation, translates directly into
5 economic growth for America, and increases revenue to the U.S. Treasury, and

6 **WHEREAS**, our inland river system moves nearly 600 million tons each year of products that are the
7 underpinnings of our economy, including iron, steel, chemicals, petroleum, coal, road salt, fertilizer,
8 aggregate material, and more than 60 percent of American agriculture products for export to the global
9 market, and

10 **WHEREAS**, American agriculture is reliant on our lock and dam system and risks losing its competitive
11 advantage in the global market unless the efficiency of our inland river transportation system is renewed,
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, 78 percent of river locks will have exceeded their design life by the year 2020 and the U.S.
14 Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources anticipates a 61% increase in river transportation
15 by 2040, and

16 **WHEREAS**, inland river locks endured 160,000 hours of shutdowns in 2016, a 700 percent increase
17 compared to 1992, and

18 **WHEREAS**, the American Society of Civil Engineers' "2017 Infrastructure Report Card"
19 deemed our lock and dam system a grade of D, and

20 **WHEREAS**, the modernization and timely rehabilitation of the lock & dam system will create hundreds of
21 millions of construction hours for cement masons, carpenters, piledrivers, plumbers and pipefitters,
22 operating engineers, electricians, laborers, iron workers, and other skilled building trades, and

23 **WHEREAS**, a study by the University of Tennessee and University of Kentucky shows that enactment of
24 those recommendations would generate 350,000 job-years of new, full-time employment with a present
25 value of more than \$14 billion over a 10-year period, and

26 **WHEREAS**, barge transportation has the smallest carbon footprint among competitive modes, emitting 30
27 percent less carbon dioxide than rail and 1,000 percent less than trucks, with similar results when
28 comparing particulate matter, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants, and



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- 29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
30 recognizes the multiple benefits of river dams, including flood control, recreation, hydropower, industrial
31 and municipal water supply, land value, and many others, and the federal responsibility to provide these
32 benefits to its citizens.
- 33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA applauds the waterway industry's voluntary and
34 unanimous decision to increase its fuel tax 45 percent in 2015 to provide the matching construction funds
35 from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) public-private partnership.
- 36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports robust federal appropriations amounts to match
37 the expenditure of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund annual collections.
- 38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports the advancement of the Inland Marine
39 Transportation System Capital Projects Business Model prioritization list for construction and
40 rehabilitation of our lock system.
- 41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA will be an engaged forum for collaboration among states
42 to ensure the most efficient and reliable river navigation system, to address the national intermodal
43 transportation needs for the future.

ADOPTED, this day, the 29th of March, 2019.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Mike Cooney (D – Montana), Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (R – Indiana), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Jon Husted (R – Ohio), Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe (R – Missouri), Lt. Governor Dan McKee (D – Rhode Island), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana), Lt. Governor Tregenza Roach (D – Virgin Islands), Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers (D – Kansas), Lt. Governor David Zuckerman (D – Vermont)