

## **Invest in America's Inland Waterways: Cosponsor the Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvement Act**

Endorsed by:

Dear Colleague:

Inland waterways form a critical nationwide network for safely and efficiently moving goods across 38 states. This 12,000-mile network of rivers, locks and navigable channels transport cargo worth more than \$229 billion annually, supporting over half-a-million American jobs. All told, approximately 575 million tons of cargo, including 60 percent of grain exports, move along inland waterways.

In 2019, Congress enacted the *PORTS Act*, which codified and clarified existing programs to provide matching grants for enhancing operations at our larger ports. The bill also established a specific set-aside for small projects and a higher matching amount for projects in rural areas. However, our inland ports, terminals, and waterways remained at a distinct disadvantage in securing capital improvement grants.

The *Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvements Act* expands upon the success of the *PORTS Act* to also serve the needs of our inland ports and terminals. By utilizing the existing authorized set-aside for a similar competitive grant matching program, the federal government would provide a dollar-for-dollar cost match for eligible projects. The bill does not authorize or appropriate any additional funds and better leverages private and public investment funding to improve the movement of freight, lessen congestion on our roadways, and reduce emissions into the environment.

Each standard 15-barge tow carries the equivalent cargo of 216 rail cars and more than 1,000 commercial trucks, resulting in less congestion on our highways and fewer environmental emissions. Yet our inland ports and terminals are hamstrung in securing capital improvement grants that would improve their ability to serve our nation's farmers, miners, and manufacturers. Now is the time to make things right.

To cosponsor the *Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvements Act*, please contact [mark.ratto@mail.house.gov](mailto:mark.ratto@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Bost or [xxx.xxx@mail.house.gov](mailto:xxx.xxx@mail.house.gov) with Rep.xxx.

Sincerely,

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress