



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

September 15, 2026

**To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
House staff assigned to steel and/or water infrastructure issues**

SUPPORT THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026 (WRDA 2026)

Background: A healthy and stable national marine transportation system is essential for the operations and success of the American steel industry. Updated inland waterways, seaports, locks and dams are critical so that steel producers can transport raw materials to their plants and send modern steel products to customers. Critical aspects of important inland navigation are overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which relies on Congressional investments in timely and substantial repair and construction projects.

Situation: The Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA 2026; H.R. 9497) is critical bipartisan legislation to authorize and fund key Corps investments across the country. The bill passed the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by a unanimous vote in July. It authorizes 131 new feasibility studies for important local water resources infrastructure projects and allows construction to commence on ten additional key initiatives. These investments will further facilitate the operations of American waterways infrastructure, on which the steel industry relies, in addition to serving as important market opportunities for the use of domestic steel products. Importantly, the bill also continues the Congressional pattern of biennial passage of WRDA legislation, which allows projects to be built consistently and in a cost-effective manner.

Request: Please vote in support of the WRDA 2026 when it is considered on the floor of the U.S. House this week. This bipartisan WRDA legislation would enhance the economic competitiveness of the domestic steel industry by making key investments in our nation's waterborne transportation system.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO