America’s marine transportation system is the hidden backbone of our nation’s freight network.

Each year our marine transportation system moves more than 553 million tons of freight valued at $178 billion.

The system carries the equivalent of 51 million truck trips each year, saving American businesses and consumers almost $8 billion compared to shipping by other means. It supports 10 million export related jobs.

But it’s a system under stress. The greatest threat? Delays caused by insufficient funding for the modernization, operation and maintenance of the system’s 240 locks – more than half the locks are over 50 years old.

In 2009 90% of the locks and dams on the system experienced an unscheduled delay. Throughout the system, there was an average of 52 service interruptions a day, preventing goods from getting to market and driving up costs.

By 2011, delays cost us $33 billion. That number is expected to climb to more than $50 billion by 2020. But that’s not the only cost.

With smart investment, we can begin to address problems caused by congestion and delays, handle increasing cargo loads safely and power America’s economic growth.

We can make our waterways work even harder for America.

GREEN TRANSPORTATION

Barges are the most fuel-efficient way to move the raw materials and semi-finished products that keep our economy moving.

**WHAT’S AT STAKE WITHOUT INVESTMENT:**

- $270 Billion in lost value of exports
- $1.3 Trillion in lost business sales
- $700 Billion in lost national GDP
- 738,000 fewer jobs

**Sources:**

- Failure to Act: The Economic Impact of Current Investment Trends in Airports, Inland Waterways and Marine Ports, ASCE. All numbers reflect cumulative impacts through 2020.
- Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- National Waterways Foundation.
OUR MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MOVES THE GOODS THAT MOVE OUR ECONOMY:

- **56%** of crude petroleum refined into gasoline and sold at your neighborhood gas station
- **22%** of basic chemicals used in hundreds of consumer products from appliances to toys, from soaps to cosmetics
- **19%** of nonmetallic minerals including construction materials and coal used to power our homes, businesses and factories
- **19%** of agricultural products destined for American supermarkets and for export and including 60% of our nation’s grain

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center