Waterways and ports support 11,765 Delaware jobs and directly contribute $1.2 billion to our state’s economy. Smart investment in this vital system will help create jobs and keep our economy growing.

**Essential Commodities are shipped to and from Delaware through Waterways and Ports:**

- **$6 Billion**: of basic chemicals used in hundreds of consumer products from appliances to toys, from soap to cosmetics
- **$5.8 Billion**: of petroleum products and crude petroleum that is refined into gasoline and sold at neighborhood gas stations
- **$2.6 Billion**: of manufactured goods including computers and electronic products, appliances, electrical equipment and clothing

**Commodities Travel to and from Delaware on Many Vital Transportation Links, Including:**

- Waterways: Delaware River
- Ports: Port of Wilmington, Ports of New York/New Jersey, Port of Philadelphia, Port of Baltimore

**Waterways and Ports Contribute Directly to Delaware’s Economy:**

- Total Revenue Impact: **$1.2 Billion**
- Direct Business Revenue: **$641 Million**
- Personal Income: **$532 Million**
- Local Purchases: **$60 Million**

### Together, Waterways and Ports Support

**11,765 Delaware Jobs**

**Did You Know?**

- Delaware’s inland waterway connects the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coastal Waterway, making it the most profitable way to move industrial and commercial goods along the East Coast
- Deepening the Delaware River shipping channel could generate $1 billion of investment in port infrastructure projects on the river

Waterways and ports help drive Delaware’s economy. Failure to invest in our waterways and ports will hurt Delaware’s exports, business sales and job creation.

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

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA)

America’s marine transportation system is vital to our nation’s competitiveness and economic growth.

The system safely, efficiently and cost-effectively transports hundreds of commodities like petroleum, coal, industrial chemicals, building materials and agricultural products to destinations within the United States and to deep water ports for export.

The inland waterways and ports are maintained and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps). But it’s up to Congress to provide authority and funding for maintenance and operations. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is the primary legislative vehicle through which specific projects are authorized while annual appropriations bills are the legislative vehicle that funds these projects.

WRDA authorizes new projects for flood protection, port improvement and upgrades to the nation’s aging locks and dams infrastructure. Additionally, the legislation promotes projects that improve hydropower, municipal and industrial water supply, ecosystem restoration and recreational opportunities.

RELIEF FOR A SYSTEM UNDER STRESS

In 1986 Congress adopted a major overhaul of Army Corps programs and envisioned new WRDA legislation every two years. Unfortunately, it hasn’t happened that way. It’s been nearly six years since the previous WRDA passed in 2007 — and Congress had to override a Presidential veto to pass the legislation. Before that the previous authorization passed in 2000.

As a result, the Corps has been chronically underfunded. System maintenance has fallen behind. Critical new projects can’t get started, and those project that do receive funds move slowly as resources are stretched to meet multiple priorities.

In fact, at current funding levels the Corps estimates it will take 77 years — the entire lifespan of an average American — to complete the 22 planned major construction and rehabilitation projects.

A VITAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICA

Modernizing the nation’s marine transportation system can create American jobs, increase exports, and inject billions of dollars into the U.S. economy. On average, investment in the marine transportation system infrastructure returns more than 10 times to the nation’s economy what is spent.

The Water Resources Development Act will promote investment in the nation’s critical water resource infrastructure, streamline project delivery and reform the implementation of Corps programs.

The 113th Congress has the opportunity — for the first time in six years — to move WRDA legislation. Congress can kick-start strategic investment in our ports and inland waterways, increase American competitiveness and, in the process, create hundreds of thousands of high-paying U.S. jobs.