



# Strategic Messages

## Infrastructure Investment

A multi-generational commitment to invest in our water commerce infrastructure transformed this great nation from a largely agrarian nation to the world's pre-eminent economic power. We have seen with great interest the various infrastructure priority lists for possible funding under the President's infrastructure initiatives and applaud the inclusion of water infrastructure.

- Our nation's inland waterways system has more miles of navigable river than the rest of the world combined.
- The inland waterways connect the main industrial centers of the interior (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; St. Louis, Missouri; Kansas City, Missouri) with coastal ports.
- The inland navigation system overlays the largest contiguous section of farmland in the world. Most prime agricultural lands are within 120 miles of a navigable river.
- 95 percent of all United States imports and exports (\$4.1 trillion) move on our waterways and ports.
- Inland waterways account for 2 billion tons of domestic and imported cargo annually.

