

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2020

Colonel Steven M. Sattinger
Rock Island District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1500 Rock Island Drive
Rock Island, IL 61204

Dear Colonel Sattinger,

We write in strong support for the Corn Belt Port Statistical Areas: 1) Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois (MRPEIWI); 2) Mid-America; and 3) the Illinois Waterways Ports and Terminals. In particular, we are aware of the recent effort to establish the MRPEIWI statistical area which is a critical component of the Corn Belt Ports. We urge expedited consideration of these applications. We hope that approval can be granted in a timely fashion as these efforts can have a significantly positive impact on our local economies.

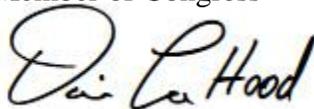
Waterborne commerce has always enabled the Tri-State Region to be nationally and globally competitive. Access to inland waterways is efficient and cost-effective option for freight, giving our communities an edge in the shipment of commodities. Recognition of this groups of ports as a multi-modal port region stands to benefit economies of the Tri-State area through better regional marketing and more economic development opportunities. It will help raise the region's profile to improve national and global visibility and competitiveness, helping attract a wide range of public and private investment. In 2017, each of these port areas moved over 6 million tons of food and food products, making them some of the most active ports on the Mississippi river.

We are supportive of this long overdue and common-sense actions by our local communities and interested parties in the region. We believe the applications for MRPEIWI and Corn Belt Ports are appropriate. The Corn Belt Ports will create an important regional multi-modal transportation infrastructure identity. Waterways have been an important part of our Tri-State area's economic history, and they will be an important part of our future. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



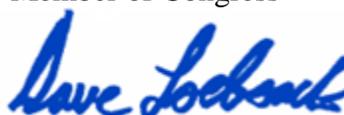
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Dave Loebbeck
Member of Congress