

## **Upper Mississippi River –Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)**

**Proposed recipient:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

**Recipient address:**

1500 Rock Island Dr, Rock Island, IL 61201

**Requested amount:**

\$22,500,000

**Explanation of request:**

NESP has widespread bipartisan support from the five states on the UMRS and the support of industry, America's building trades, and environmental groups. Therefore, we are requesting full funding of NESP's construction for FY 22. NESP has a total FY 22 construction-ready capability of \$22.5 million. The entity receiving the funding for this project is the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. Funding will modernize a new lock on the UMRS to increase efficiency and reduce congestion on our inland waterways systems.

Unfortunately, delays in construction continue to threaten the reliability of the overall productivity of the waterway. Shippers have legitimate concerns about the age of this structure and increases in planned and emergency lock outages. According to a study prepared for the National Waterways Foundation and the U.S. Maritime Administration, estimated costs of an unplanned closure of Lock 25 alone would result in a \$1.57 billion loss to the economy, impacting 132 counties in 17 states. Many farmers and businesses in our districts rely on the UMRS to ship crops or goods to market, but America's competitiveness in foreign markets shrinks each year without a new start. With 60 percent of our nation's grain exports traveling on the UMRS, we cannot afford to let this situation worsen. NESP provides the opportunity to address these reliability issues, protect this infrastructure from catastrophic failure and provide roughly 10,000 construction jobs over the lifetime of the program, which is about 20 years of construction.