Investments in water resources infrastructure are investments in the long-term strength and security of the nation.

The National Waterways Conference is the only national organization to advocate in favor of national policy and laws that recognize the vital importance of America’s water resources infrastructure to our nation’s well-being and quality of life. Established in 1960, NWC supports a sound balance between economic and human needs and environmental and ecological considerations.

The National Waterways Conference supports -

• Rational, balanced, common-sense policies and programs that recognize the multiple uses of water and the essential contributions of a healthy and environmentally sound water resources infrastructure to the nation’s economic prosperity, public health and national security.

• Robust investments in critical water resources infrastructure, including funding for operation and maintenance sufficient to preserve the value of prior investments, to ensure that water resources will continue to contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by every American and sustain our global economic competitiveness.

• An investment decision process for new projects that reflects the national interest in water resources premised upon proven analytical tools and an evaluation of a full range of alternatives.

• Cooperation among stakeholders and all levels and agencies of government that recognizes and respects national, regional, state and local differences in priorities and values related to water resources and supports decision-making at the level of government closest to our citizens.
Reliable, well-maintained water resources infrastructure is fundamental to America’s economic and environmental well-being and is essential to maintaining our nation’s competitive position within the global economy. Our water resources infrastructure provides life-saving flood control, needed water supplies, shore protection, water-based recreation, environmental restoration, and hydropower production. Moreover, waterways transportation is the safest, most energy-efficient and environmentally sound mode of transportation. Among the numerous benefits that water resources projects provide to our nation:

- Flood damage reduction programs that save lives and prevent more than $700 billion in riverine and coastal damages – reducing damages by almost $6 for each dollar spent.

- Ports and waterways – the backbone of the nation’s transportation system – that provide domestic and international trade opportunities and low-cost, environmentally sound goods movement.

- Effective management of our nation’s floodplains – giving balanced consideration to economic and human uses, as well as environmental and ecological concerns – ensuring the safety, security and well-being of all Americans and their families.

- Hydropower facilities, built and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, that produce nearly a third of the nation’s total hydropower output: enough energy to serve about ten million households.

- Management of the nation’s water supply – critical to limiting water shortages and lessening the impact of droughts – including multi-purpose Corps’ projects that can provide almost 5 billion gallons of water per day for use by local communities and businesses, enough water to supply the average household needs of about 55 million Americans for a year.

- Shore protection projects that provide protection from hurricanes and other storm events for transportation, petroleum and agriculture infrastructure around our coastlines, coastal waterways and deltas, as well as recreational benefits.

*The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is dedicated to a greater understanding of the widespread public benefits of our nation’s water resources infrastructure. Our mission is to effect common sense policies and programs, recognizing the public value of our nation’s water resources and their contribution to public safety, a competitive economy, national security, environmental quality and energy conservation. Conference membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water supply districts, engineering consultants, and state and local governments.*