



# Lake Carriers' Association

*The Greatest Ships on the Great Lakes*

**JAMES H. I. WEAKLEY, PRESIDENT**

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Via Fax: (312) 793-5968

Mr. James Casey

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources

Michael A. Bilandic Bldg.

160 N. LaSalle Street, Ste. S-703

Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Casey

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## Dredging of Waukegan Outer Harbor

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Lake Carriers' Association (LCA) represents 17 American companies that operate 57 U.S.-flag vessels (lakers) on the Great Lakes. Their vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, aggregate and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation, as well as salt, sand, grain and gypsum. Collectively, our members can transport more than 115 million tons of dry-bulk cargo per year, and those cargos generate and sustain more than 103,000 jobs in the eight Great Lakes.

In Illinois, the jobs tied to the cargos our members carry are estimated to top 5,300.

We are writing to endorse the dredging of Waukegan's outer harbor. Prior to the recession, our members used to deliver upwards of 550,000 tons of cement and gypsum to Waukegan each year. While the annual total has been impacted by the downturn in our economy (200,000 tons in 2010), lack of adequate depth in the harbor is now blocking deliveries to Waukegan.<sup>1</sup>

There will be a number of benefits to reopening the harbor to commercial navigation. Great Lakes shipping is the most cost-effective mode of transportation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that Great Lakes shipping annually saves its customers \$3.6 billion compared to the next least costly mode of transportation.<sup>2</sup>

The environment benefits when ships move cargo. Again citing the Corps report, a Great Lakes freighter travels 607 miles on one gallon of fuel per ton of cargo delivered. Put that cargo on a train and it moves only 202 miles on a gallon of fuel. If transported by a truck, the cargo moves just 59 miles.

Ships produce fewer emissions than the land-based modes. A laker produces 90% less carbon dioxide than a truck and 70% less than a train.

Again, we fully support dredging Waukegan's outer harbor and look forward to once more serving that port.

Very respectfully,

James H. I. Weakley  
President

1. Waterborne Commerce of the United States Calendar Year 2010 – Part III, Waterways and Harbors Great Lakes.

2. Great Lakes Navigation System: Economic Strength to the Nation, February 2009.

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**The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes Since 1880**

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CENTRAL MARINE LOGISTICS, INC. ♦ GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. ♦ GREAT LAKES FLEET/KEY LAKES, INC.  
INLAND LAKES MANAGEMENT, INC. ♦ THE INTERLAKE STEAMSHIP COMPANY ♦ LAKES SHIPPING COMPANY  
LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE ♦ PERE MARQUETTE SHIPPING ♦ PORT CITY MARINE SERVICES ♦ PORT CITY STEAMSHIP SERVICES  
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