



## Obama Disappoints Waterways Operators

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Proposal to spend \$50 billion on infrastructure omitted inland waterways

Barge operators say they are "disappointed and puzzled" President Obama omitted inland waterways from his proposal to spend \$50 billion on transportation infrastructure projects.

The president's Labor Day speech called for investment in the Three Rs, roads, rails and runways, but he could have easily added "rivers" to the list, said Cornel Martin, president of the Waterways Council.

"To not include and dismiss our nation's most environmentally sound, energy efficient and congestion-relieving mode of transportation, when its lock and dam infrastructure consistently earns a "D" grade, is unreasonable and unacceptable," Martin said.

Martin said one jumbo barge carries the equivalent of 70 truck loads, and the waterways industry supports employment in industries that rely on inland navigation. He said that the waterways industry also has the lowest carbon footprint of any transportation mode.

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