

The ATVG Board of Directors encourages all local governments to approve and adopt a similar resolution as the one below in support of funding for the Tennessee Valley's inland waterways. This resolution was adopted at the ATVG Annual Membership Meeting in November and is being sent to each member of the TVA Caucus composed of U.S. Senators and Representatives in the area served by TVA.

Our waterways are vitally important to this nation and have suffered from years of neglect due to a lack of funding. This is an important opportunity for local elected officials in the Tennessee valley region and especially each of the cities and counties fortunate enough to be located adjacent to one of our waterways, to request our U.S. Senators and Representatives to include funding in the economic stimulus package now before Congress.

Association Of Tennessee Valley Governments Resolution

A RESOLUTION to encourage the TVA Congressional delegation to include funding in the proposed "Economic Stimulus Package" now before Congress that would provide for an investment in our nation's aging infrastructure, especially our inland waterways transportation system.

WHEREAS, many of the locks and dams that provide tremendous economic benefits to our nation are near or beyond their design life, with several at risk of failure; and

WHEREAS, most have been in service for fifty years or longer, providing valuable economic development opportunities to communities and regions served by our inland waterways network; and

WHEREAS, these locks and dams have suffered years of neglect, are requiring more frequent maintenance and modernization will be essential to their continued viability as a vital component of our nation's overall transportation system; and

WHEREAS, transportation of freight on our nation's inland waterways produces many benefits including a cost-effective, energy efficient and environmentally sound alternative to land-based transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, the movement of commerce on the nation's waterways greatly reduces wear and tear on public highways and bridges while reducing the number of traffic accidents and fatalities by reducing the number of vehicles on our highways and at rail crossings; and

WHEREAS, an economic stimulus package that includes an investment in our nation's inland waterways infrastructure will not only provide overdue modernization to a mode of transportation that has available capacity for growth, it will also result in much needed job creation that will be essential to stimulate our nation's economic recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE VALLEY GOVERNMENTS, representing the nearly one thousand local governments that reside within the TVA region in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, that we encourage congress to include funding in the economic stimulus package now before Congress that would provide for an investment in our nation's aging inland waterways transportation system.