



Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

151 Saint Andrews Court, Suite 710, Mankato, MN 56009
Phone (507) 388-1653 - Fax (507) 388-6751 - (888) 896-9678
www.mnsoybean.org

Minnesota Soybean Growers Supports President's Plan to Modernize Waterways

Mankato, MN – September 9, 2011 - The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) strongly supports the initiatives to modernize inland waterways and surrounding infrastructure that President Obama unveiled in his plans for the American Jobs Act Thursday evening.

Like many organizations involved in exports, MSGA and its members support the nation's waterways and its infrastructure as a way to create family-wage jobs and enhance reliability of this transportation system that can help the President achieve his stated goal of doubling U.S. exports in the next four years.

With a nearly 20% unemployment rate in the construction industry, investment in the nation's aging inland waterways transportation infrastructure will employ Americans in family-wage jobs for the next 20 years on these priority projects.

"We have a lot of people unemployed and an infrastructure system that needs modernizing, and this initiative would connect the dots," said Pope County farmer Paul Freeman, who serves on the MSGA Board of Directors and is a Minnesota Soybean representative on the Upper Mississippi Waterways Council. "Look back at history and see the major infrastructure improvement during the Great Depression when people were out of jobs. It's time that we step up and start modernizing our locks and dams to keep America competitive in the world marketplace through export of soybeans and other U.S. agricultural products."

Farmers rely on waterways to obtain crop nutrients and other crop inputs and then to ship harvested products to the Gulf for export. Minnesota exports \$4 billion worth of agricultural products, and soybeans are the state's largest agricultural export. "Minnesota soybean farmers export every-other row of soybeans we grow, so we are very concerned about improvement of the waterways transportation infrastructure in order to be able to meet the growing demand of our international customers," stated Freeman.

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association stands ready to work with Congress on a bi-partisan basis to keep America's agricultural products moving for the long-term.

MSGA is a non-profit, farmer-controlled membership organization established in 1962. Its goal is to assure profitable soybean farming by influencing favorable ag legislation, monitoring government policies and supporting research and market development activities.

###

For more information, to set up an interview or request a photo, contact:
Maureen Degnan, Farmer, Lumpe + McClelland, 612-760-0497