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**MARK K. KNOY**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

April 2, 2015

To our valued partners:

In December of 2014, Congress passed and the President signed the Able Tax Act, which included a 9-cent per gallon increase to the inland waterways user fee. The long-sought increase, which was supported by the barge industry and many of its shippers, became effective April 1, 2015. The increase in the user fee will result in the collection of an additional \$40 million annually from barge carriers that will be deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for the benefit of priority navigation construction projects and major rehabilitations. With the Federal Treasury match, that is an additional \$80 million annually to invest in the modernization and maintenance of our inland waterways.

Enhancing waterways infrastructure helps secure well-paying jobs for American workers and is essential to our nation's economy, environment and quality of life. Aging locks and dams pose a threat to the safe and efficient flow of waterborne commerce. Ensuring that our waterways infrastructure keeps pace with transportation needs is critical to the nation's economic prosperity. Most importantly, this support for waterways infrastructure is critical for maintaining a reliable transportation system for the safe and efficient movement of your cargoes.

Consistent with industry practice, American Commercial Lines passes through the cost of government controlled fees to its customers. While we have included user fees in our contracts for the last 30 years, this is the first increase in several decades.

Beginning April 1, you will see the 9-cent per gallon increase included in your freight rates where contractually applicable.

Thank you for your support in building and maintaining our nation's river highways.

Mark K. Knoy

President  
American Commercial Lines LLC