





Inland Ports Black Hole

“U.S. Principal Ports” Map





ARRA



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

What We
Hoped For



What We
Got





Corn Belt Ports

*Modern, Sustainable, Rural, Regional,
Multimodal, Inland Partnership Ports*



**U.S.
Corn Belt**

**Aligned with *Both* Grain Production &
Rural Ports and Waterways Infrastructure**

*Rural Maritime
Prosperity Zones
& Economic
Development
Engines*

● Major Urban Metro Port

▬ Locks & Dam 26
(Melvin Price)

○ Corn Belt Ports Region (X4)
(Goal: A Top 50 US Port)

○ Coastal Port Access
to Global Markets

1 – Illinois Waterway Ports Commission

2 – Mid-America Port Commission

3 – Upper Mississippi River Ports (IA & IL)

4 – Northern Grain Belt Ports



Corn Belt Ports

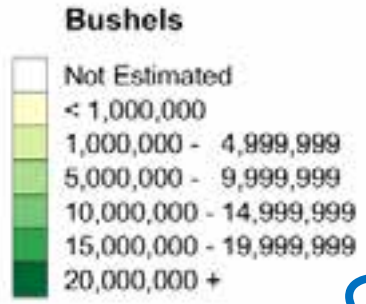
*Modern, Sustainable, Rural, Regional,
Multimodal, land Partnership Ports*

Ports
Within the
Lock & Dam
System

Aligned with the
Heart of the Corn Belt



Formed
2020-2022



- Locks & Dam 26 (Melvin Price)
- Corn Belt Ports Region (GOAL: A Top 50 US Port)
- Coastal Port Access to Global Markets

**Corn for Grain 2018
Production by County
For Selected States**

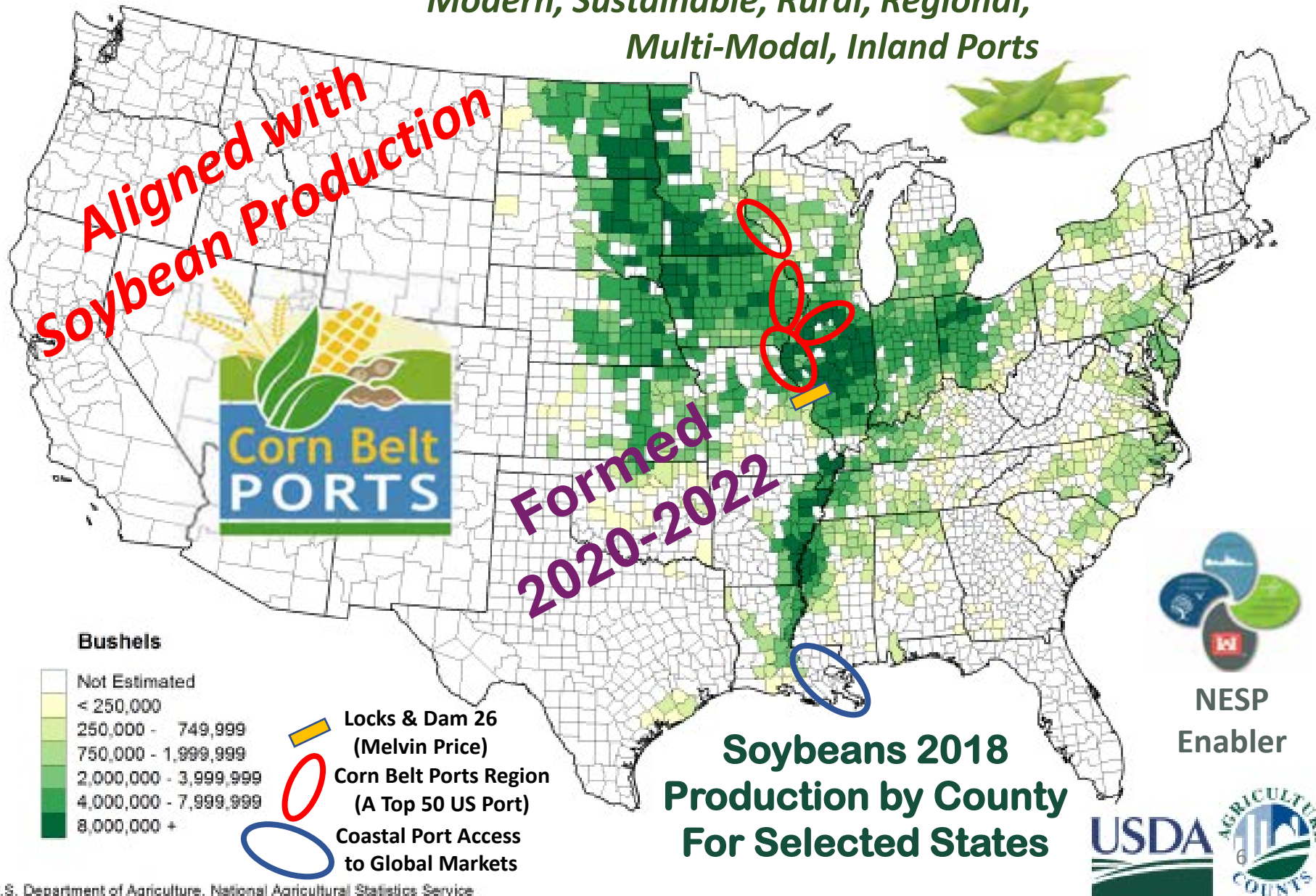


NESP
Enabler



Corn Belt Ports

*Modern, Sustainable, Rural, Regional,
Multi-Modal, Inland Ports*



Top 10 U.S. Agriculture Product Exporting States

(2023)



Modern, Sustainable, Rural, Regional, Multimodal, Inland Partnership Ports

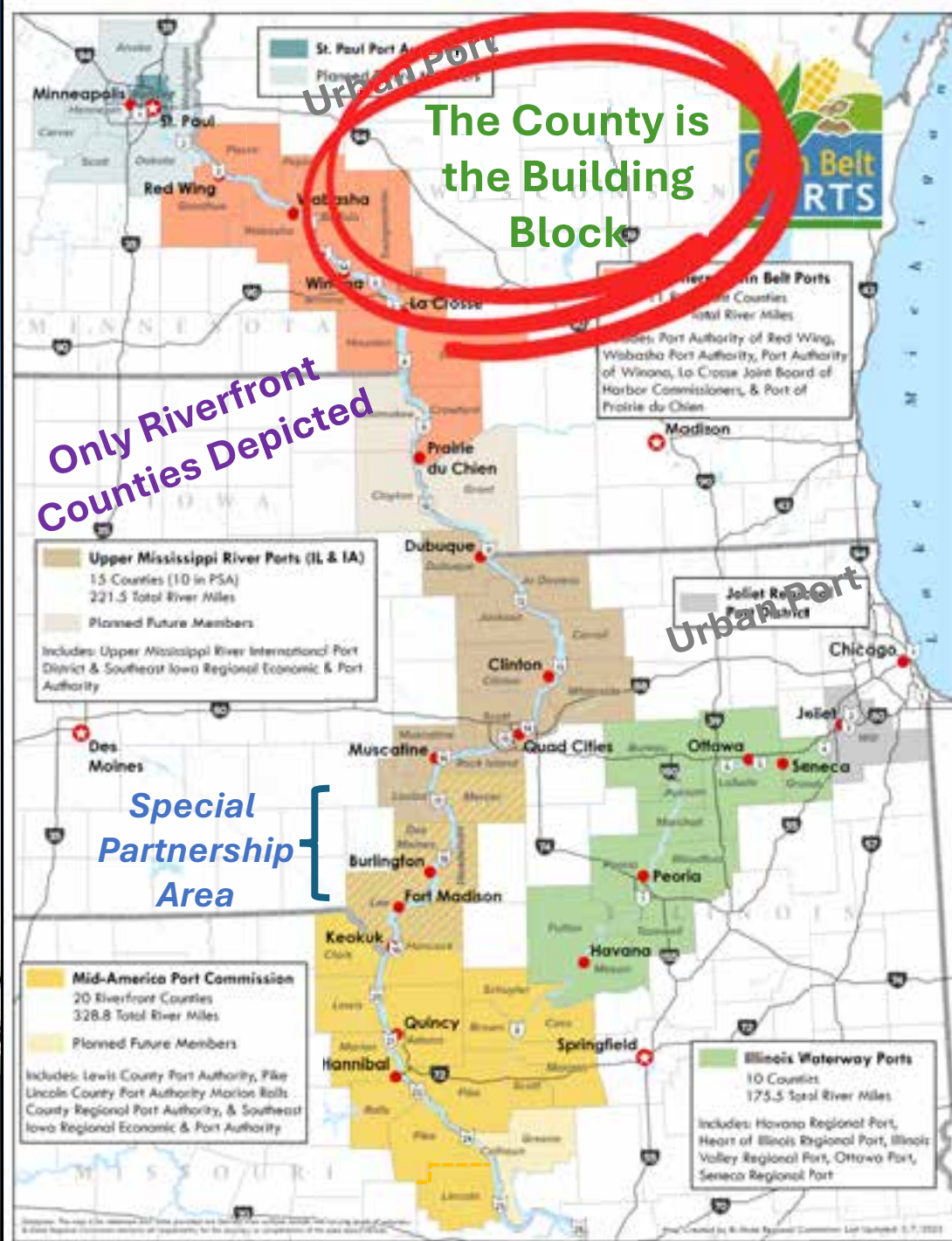




Corn Belt Ports

America's Heartland

Where Rural Communities
Power the Global
Supply Chain





➤ Senate **57 Yea** 0 Nays

➤ House 113 Yea 0 Nays



Corn Belt Ports Leadership



Travis McGlasson
Chair,
Illinois
Waterway Ports
Commission



Douglas Aeilts
Chair,
Mid-America Port
Commission



Ashley Harris
Chair,
Rock Island Regional
Port District

Upper Mississippi River Ports (IA & IL)



Jim Irwin
Chair,
Ports of Eastern Iowa
Authority



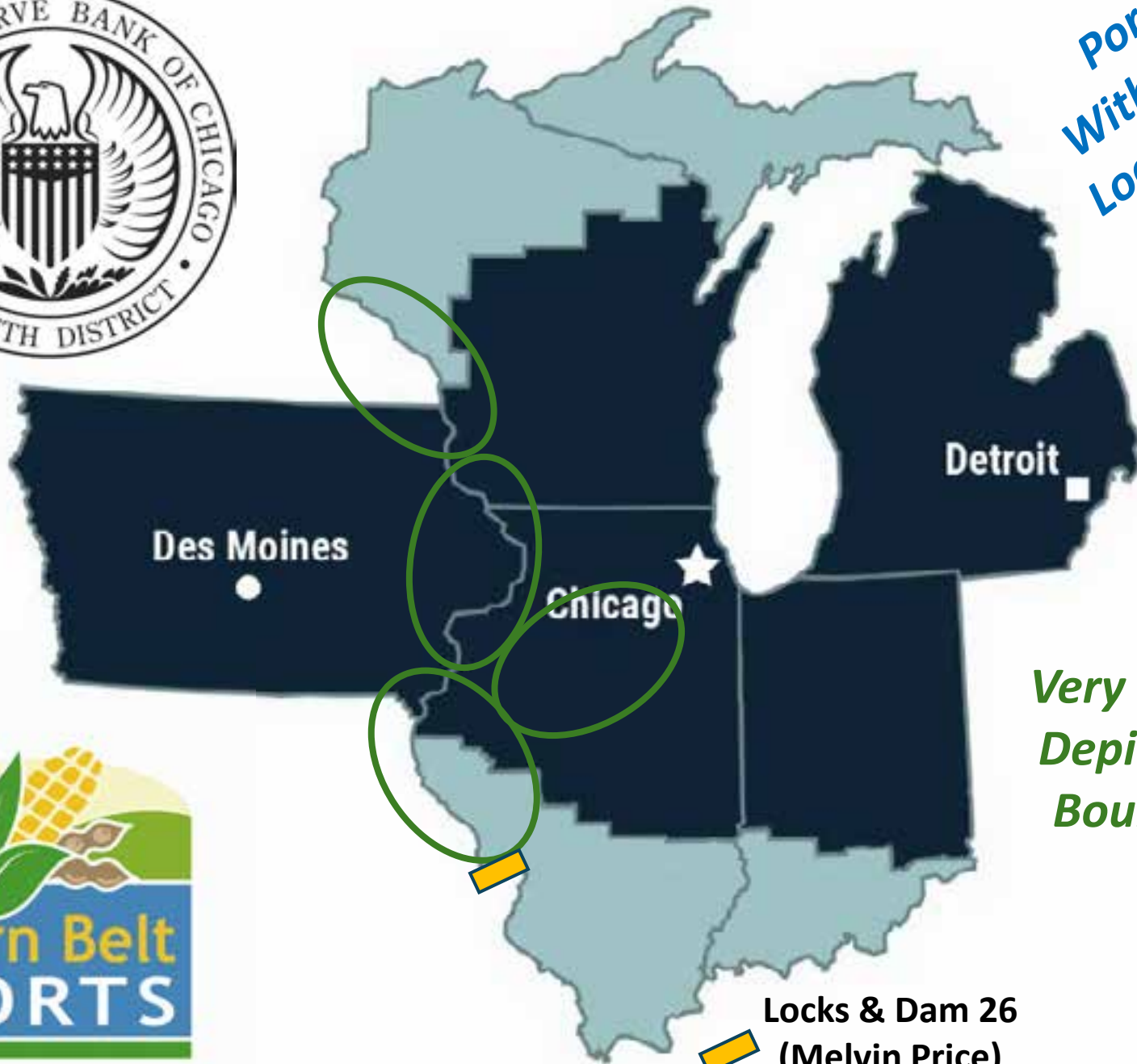
Sam Scinta
Chief Executive Officer
La Crosse Area Chamber

Northern Grain
Belt Ports





**Ports
Within the
Lock & Dam
System**



***Very General
Depiction of
Boundaries***



**Locks & Dam 26
(Melvin Price)**

1st Time

In History

Leading U.S. Ports in 2020

(Millions of Short Tons and Percent Change¹ from 2019)

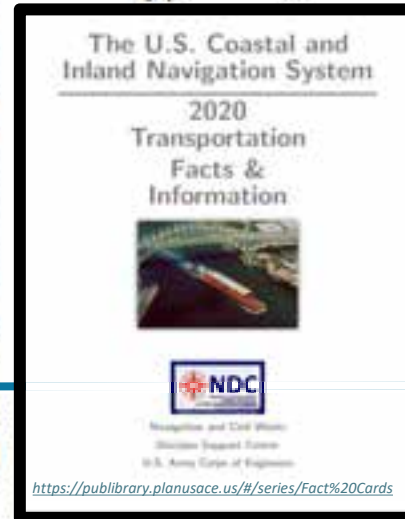
Rank	Type ³	Port	Domestic		Foreign		Total	
			Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
39	I	Pittsburgh, PA Port of (Model)	15.5	-28.7	**	0.0	15.5	-28.7
40	I	New Bourbon Port Authority, MO ²	15.5	24.7	**	0.0	15.5	24.7
41	I	Mid-America Port, IA, IL and MO	15.0	24.5	**	0.0	15.0	24.5
42	I	Illinois Waterway Ports, IL ⁴	14.9	**	**	**	14.9	**
43	L	Two Harbors, MN	11.7	-12.4			13.5	-20.2
44	C	Boston, MA	3.4	-33.7			13.3	-16.7
45	C	Honolulu, O'ahu, HI	11.4	-10.4			12.3	-14.5
46	C	Galveston, TX	5.2	7.3			11.9	9.0
47	C	Port of Longview, WA	1.1	1.3			11.1	14.5
48	C	Port of Vancouver USA, WA	2.6	18.0			10.2	-6.9
49	L	Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port, OH	7.7	-24.4			9.4	-20.5
50	C	San Juan, PR ²	4.6	-0.5			9.3	10.1
51	L	Illinois International Port, IL	7.2	-13.8			9.1	-9.4
52	L	Toledo-Lucas County Port, OH ²	4.3	-21.0			9.0	-1.8
53	I	Memphis-Shelby County Port, TN	8.7	-2.6			8.7	-2.6
54	I	Joliet Regional Port, IL	8.6	-6.7	**	0.0	8.6	-6.7
55	C	PortMiami, FL	0.2	39.9	8.2	-5.5	8.4	-4.8
56	I	Iowa and W Illinois, IA IL	8.4	56.6	**	0.0	8.4	56.6
57	L	Detroit-Wayne County Port, MI	5.7	-44.0	2.4	-19.5	8.2	-38.4
58	C	New Haven, CT	4.8	-17.5	3.3	-5.1	8.1	-12.9
59	I	Louisville-Jefferson Port, KY ²	8.1	-27.6	**	0.0	8.1	-27.6
60	I	Nashville, TN	7.5	8.7	**	0.0	7.5	8.7

Desired Ranking Range

Desired Ranking Range

NATIONALLY RANKED

Goal ↑



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Global Trade

FOR U.S. COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS GLOBALLY



**The Case Against
Manufacturing in Asia**

**THE A-TEAM
OF E-COMM**

**The Tremendous
Importance of the Aerospace
& Defense Supply Chain**

**THE
Top 50
PORTS
OF '22**

**GLOBALLY
SIGNIFICANT**



Top 50 Power Ports

④1 Mid-America Port
Commission

Previous year: 44

Total tons: 15 million
(+3 million)

④2 Illinois Waterway Ports

Previous year: not ranked

Total tons: 14.9 million

2023 Port Performance Freight Statistics Program: Annual Report to Congress



U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation

**TABLE 2-3 List of Top 25 Ports by Dry Bulk Tonnage
(Ranked by short tons)**

1. South Louisiana, LA, Port of	14. Huntington-Tristate, KY, OH, WV
2. New Orleans	15. Kalama
3. Plaquemines Port District	16. New Bourbon Port Authority, MO
4. Virginia, VA, Port of	17. Portland
5. Baton Rouge, LA	18. Mid-America Port, IA, IL and MO
6. Mobile, AL	19. Pittsburgh
7. Mid-Ohio Valley Port, OH and WV	20. Illinois Waterway Ports Terminals
8. Cincinnati-Northern KY, Ports of	21. Two Harbors
9. St. Louis Metro Port, IL and MO	22. Corpus Christi
10. Duluth-Superior, MN and WI	23. Seattle
11. Indiana (Northern District)	24. Longview
12. Houston Port Authority, TX	25. Tampa Port Authority
13. Baltimore	



**CRITICAL PART
OF THE
SUPPLY CHAIN**

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News

Corn Belt Ports help unleash flood of state, federal, local investment

By Kenda Burrows - November 10, 2024

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We Got
Some of
What We
Hoped For!
& Still More
to Get!



LIVE



2022
ACTION &
RESULTS

Retrofitting
Lock and Dam
25 with a 1200'
Lock was
Funded in the
**Bipartisan
Infrastructure Bill!**

PRESIDENT BIDEN SPEAKS IN MENLO

LOCAL 5c

3:18
60°

April 12, 2022: President Joe Biden in Menlo, Iowa

“Through modern locks, we are gonna help farmers get their products to markets faster, more efficiently, lower costs and keep American agriculture globally competitive,”

Trump unveils plans to build \$15B steel mill in Iowa

Mesabi Metallics' steel facility will be the largest in the U.S., creating 1,750 jobs and adding 10 million tons of annual production capacity.

Published Oct. 8, 2026



Nathan Owens
Reporter

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U.S. President Donald Trump answers questions from reporters during an announcement in the Oval Office at the White House on Sept. 28, 2026, in Washington, D.C. He shared plans to build a \$15 billion steel plant spearheaded by Mesabi Metallics. Kevin Dietrich via Getty Images



U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration

Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants

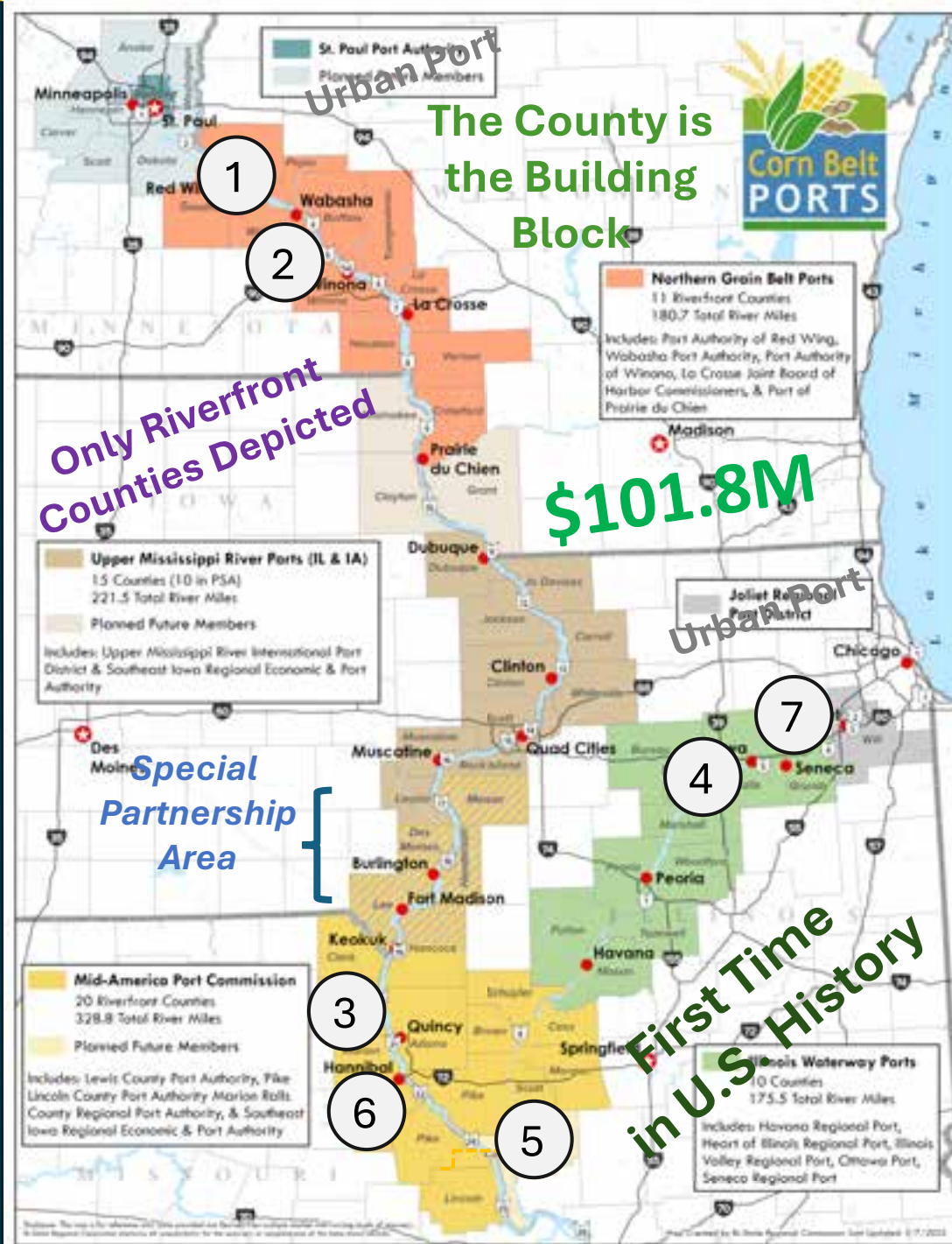
7 November 2023

- ① Red Wing, MN \$1,989,246
- ② Wabasha, MN \$2,545,297
- ③ LaGrange, MO \$11,091,844

15 November 2024

- ④ Hennepin, IL \$38,582,711
- ⑤ Hardin, IL \$9,000,000
- ⑥ Hannibal, MO \$27,324,552
- ⑦ Seneca, IL \$11,221,110

2022 and Prior
ZERO





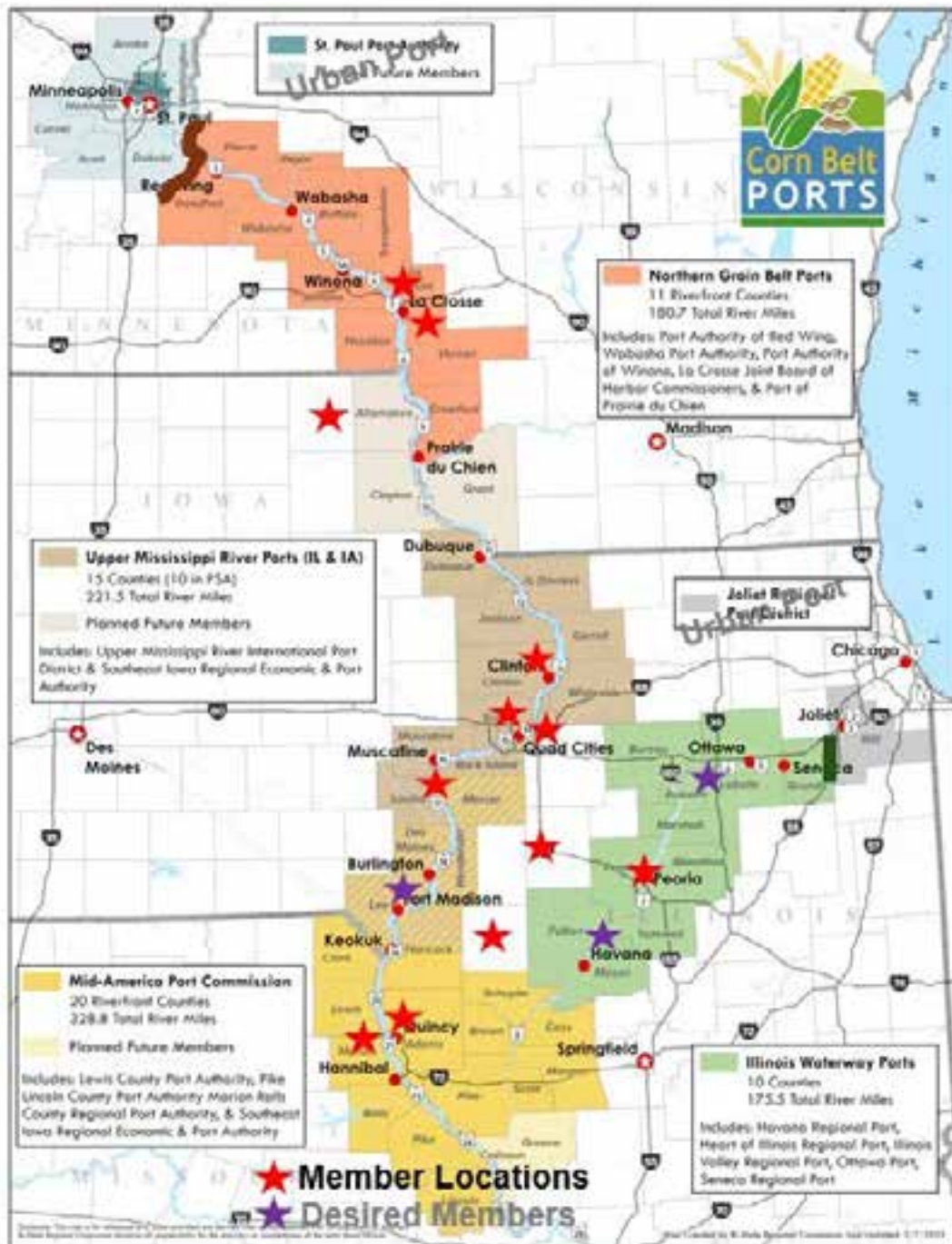
Firsts

- ✓ USEPA Clean Ports Program Grant
- ✓ National Science Foundation Advancing Smart Logistics Grant
- ✓ U.S. Maritime Administration Small Shipyard Grant
- ✓ U.S. Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant
- ✓ 1200' Lock Under Construction (since 1957)
- ✓ Largest Lock Rehabilitation Program in History (6 Locks in 2 phases)
- ✓ Large-Scale Illinois Port Capital Investment Project Funding
- ✓ Large Scale Illinois Port Infrastructure Strategic Planning Funding
- ✓ U.S. Maritime Administration Education Consortium
- ✓ And, the list goes on.....

International Grain Buyer Visits



Corn Belt Ports Rural Maritime & Logistics Training & Education Consortium



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Request Information | **September 18, 2026**

MUDDY RIVER NEWS
Our Home. Our News.

Consortium of nine colleges designated as Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education

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Corn Belt Ports Consortium honored for maritime workforce efforts

MARAD designates new group as 2026 Center of Excellence

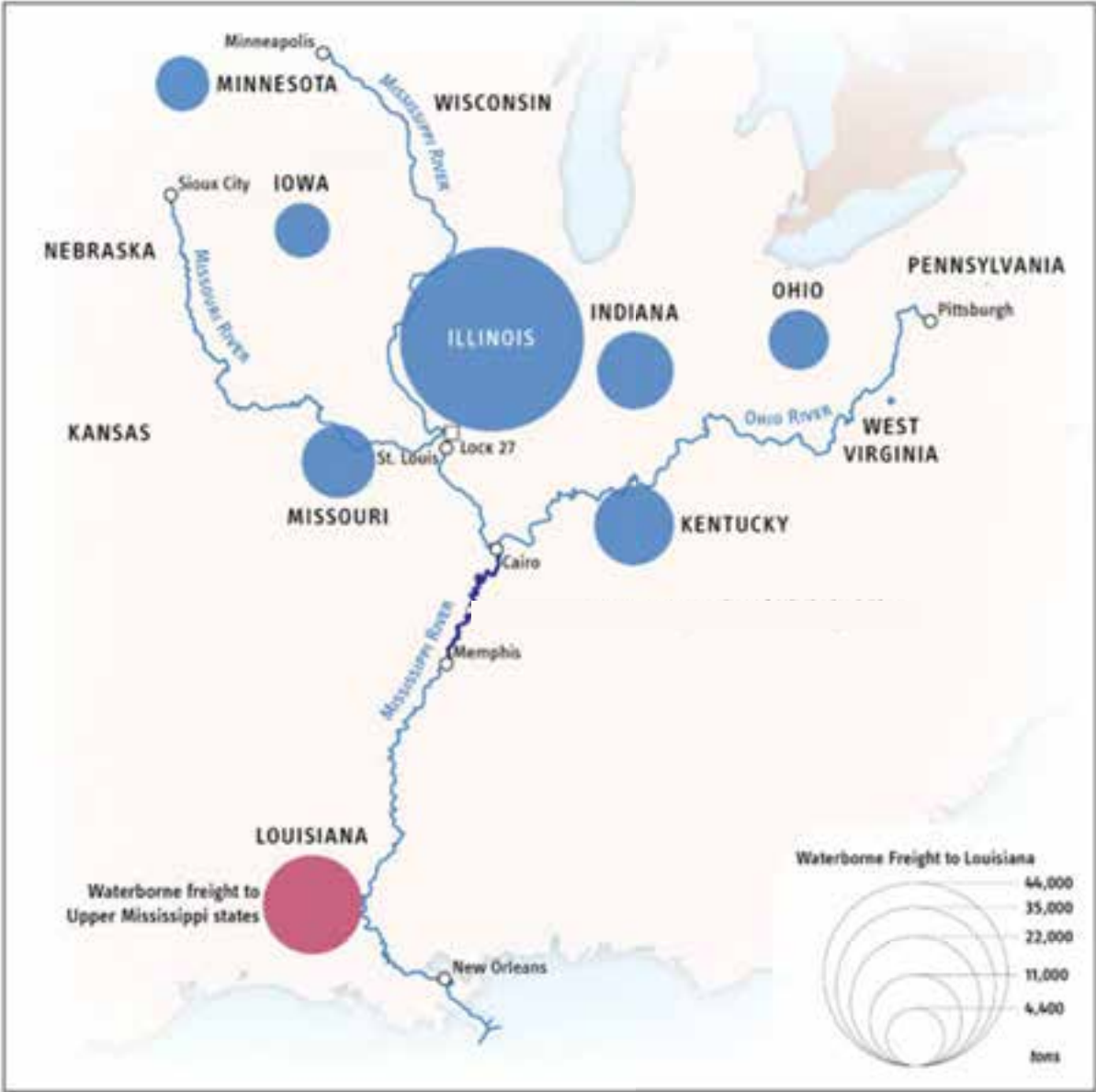
By: QCB News Staff | September 21, 2024 | 4 min read

Read More



- ✓ 50–60% of grain exports move by barge.
- ✓ Most U.S. grain exports go through the Gulf.
- ✓ 90% of Gulf-bound export grain arrives by barge.
- ✓ Roughly 10–15% of all U.S. grain shipped moves by barge.
- ✓ In 2019, barges moved 59 million tons of grain to the Central Gulf.

FIGURE 3-6 Waterborne Tonnage between States on the Upper Mississippi River System and Louisiana: 2020



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Freight Analysis Framework (FAF, version 5.4), available at [Freight Analysis Framework \(bts.gov\)](https://www.bts.gov/freight-analysis-framework) as of November 2022.