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IFB supporting Corn Belt Ports

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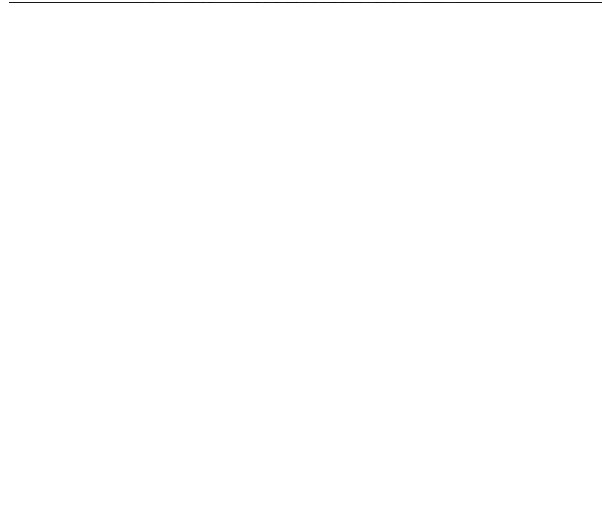
The Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors recently agreed to invest \$25,000 in the Corn Belt Ports initiative to support efforts to secure additional federal funding to improve infrastructure on the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

Three Port Statistical Areas (PSAs), which together make up the Corn Belt Ports, were federally approved in 2021. The PSAs include:

- Illinois River and Waterway Ports and Terminals PSA
- Mid-America Port Commission PSA
- Upper Mississippi River Ports PSA

Collectively, the three are the equivalent to the 17th-largest port in the United States and the largest inland port in the nation.

“These PSAs are extremely beneficial to Illinois agriculture, as it is the first-time tonnage is accurately being reported and recognized federally on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers north of St. Louis,” said Rodney Knittel, IFB assistant director of transportation and infrastructure. “That information will help elected officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be more aware of the importance of our waterway infrastructure.”



The Corn Belt Ports' initial focus includes:

- Pursuing increased federal and state funding and grants
- Government/stakeholder relations and communications
- Regional marketing
- Promoting the value of waterborne commerce
- Strengthening the link to Louisiana ports
- Promoting development of micro multi-modal transportation systems

“Illinois Farm Bureau appreciates the work of Retired Col. Robert Sinkler and his team to develop these port statistical areas,” Knittel said. “We look forward to our partnership.”