



Illinois Waterway Ports Commission

Why is the Act Important: The Illinois Waterway (ILWW) Ports Commission Act is an economic development initiative encompassing 10 counties, 5 state ports and 3 regional planning agencies. It is a means to represent the economic value (and the value of waterborne commerce) as reflected in tonnage, to the nation and the world generated by North Central and Central Illinois. Additionally, it increases federal funding opportunities for the region.

Background: In 2021 the Waterborne Commerce Statistic Center and the Navigation and Civil Works Decision Support Center approved an application submitted by the 10 counties and supported by letters from the 5 state ports and 3 regional planning agencies to form a Port Statistical Area. State legislation is required to allow the Illinois Waterway Ports Commission to be designated as a U.S. Principal Port.

Benefits to the Region: This federal designation as a U.S. Principal port allows national listing and ranking and increased federal funding opportunities (USACE, MARAD, USDA, EPA). This benefits the Illinois river basin which includes 90% of the state's population, 46% of the state's agricultural production and 44% of the state's land area.

The ILWW Ports Commission will:

- 1) Represent the interests of the region as a federally recognized multi-modal port;
- 2) Support regional marketing and economic development efforts;
- 3) Raise the region's profile to improve regional, national and global competitiveness;
- 4) Give a competitive edge to attract a wide range of public and private investment;
- 5) Create a regional multi-modal transportation infrastructure identity;
- 6) Better serve the State of Illinois and all communities as an economic development tool within the region.

Illinois Department of Transportation: The recent Illinois Marine Transportation System plan and economic impact analysis study, estimated that marine cargo activity within the ILWW Ports Commission area directly or indirectly supports **32,648 jobs** within the state. These workers earn an estimated **\$2,000.8 billion in wages** and contribute approximately **\$3,309.3 billion towards State GDP**. The activity enabled comes from shippers across the state making ports and terminals within the ILWW Ports Commission area, as well as the services supporting the movement of goods.

Illinois Waterway (ILWW) Ports Commission Port Statistical Area (PSA) (Waterborne Commerce)

Major Cities

Peoria Metropolitan Area
Ottawa

Ports (State Recognized)

Havana Regional Port (2311)
Heart of Illinois Regional Port (2312)
Illinois Valley Regional Port (2313)
Ottawa City Port (7712)
Seneca Regional Port (7710)

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tri-County (Primary Applicant)

Regional Planning Agencies (See Map)

North Central Illinois
Tri-County
Western Illinois

USACE (Corps) ILWW Project Office: Peoria
Supporting USCG (Coast Guard) Office: Peoria

Illinois Waterway Visitors Center

Starved Rock Lock and Dam (Ottawa)

Lead Resource Supt Agency (Western IL Univ)

Institute for Rural Affairs (Plus)

As of 3 Feb 2023

