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## **TFG LAUNCHES COALITION TO PROMOTE INCREASED FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION**

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Across America, communities are seeking to reconnect with their waterfronts, which have often been neglected, degraded, and underutilized. Many localities are developing ambitious revitalization plans which have the potential to create significant public benefits including environmental cleanup, job creation, increased tourism, and recreation. However, communities face a number of obstacles to implementing these plans, such as the lack of public resources for infrastructure improvements, environmental restoration, recreation facilities, and economic development; regulatory and institutional barriers to integrating environmental, economic and other community objectives; and the lack of coordination among the various federal, state and local agencies involved in waterfronts. Examples include:

- Memphis, Tennessee, has launched a Mississippi Riverfront Development project to create a continuous publicly accessible riverfront, a downtown harbor, a linked system of parks, a riverside drive and connections back to the community. *Memphis needs more than \$225 million to complete the initiative.*
- Along the historic Mill River and Long Island Sound in southern Connecticut, the City of Stamford is restoring the degraded waterfront ecosystem, establishing a fast ferry transit system, creating a new central park and riverwalk, fostering tens of millions of dollars of mixed use waterfront development, and creating a system of “green infrastructure” to protect water quality from further degradation. *Stamford must deal with multiple federal agencies with confusing programs that are not coordinated.*
- In East St. Louis, Illinois, a partnership including the City, the Greater St. Louis Empowerment Zone, the Army Corps of Engineers and many other allies have created a Riverfront Redevelopment Master Plan for a 1,000 acre segment of the Mississippi riverfront. *East St. Louis faces major challenges to clean up brownfields and upgrade deteriorated infrastructure.*
- East Palo Alto, California, which has long struggled to overcome poverty and urban decay, is restoring brownfield areas along the San Francisco Bay into a bayfront park, high-tech offices, and mixed use development and community spaces. *East Palo Alto needs substantial technical and funding resources to rebuild the infrastructure and ready the area for re-use.*

In 2006, The Ferguson Group launched the American Waterfront Revitalization Coalition to promote the restoration, revitalization and redevelopment of waterfronts for economic development, recreational, ecological, and other community purposes. This nationwide network of communities and other stakeholders will educate key Congressional and federal agency policymakers on the value and promise of waterfront revitalization, identify and seek solutions to overcome policy and regulatory barriers, and advocate for increased federal resources for important economic and environmental revitalization projects on our nation's waterways. Comprised of local governments, port authorities, waterfront development agencies, and other public entities, the Coalition will also serve as a forum for members to share best practices, tools and lessons learned.

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