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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



September 16, 2013

Chairman Bill Shuster
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nick Rahall
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Bob Gibbs
House Water & Environment Subcommittee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Ranking Member Tim Bishop
House Water & Environment Subcommittee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Gibbs and Ranking Members Rahall and Bishop,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America ("AGC"), I commend you for your bipartisan efforts to address our nation's aging navigational system of inland waterways, coastal harbors and ports, locks and dams, and flood control protections and your commitment to restore critical environmental areas of our country. The markup of H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform & Development Act of 2013 ("WRRDA bill"), represents a positive step forward towards making long-desired, critical water resources infrastructure projects a reality. AGC supports H.R. 3080 and urges members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to vote for its passage at the markup.

The benefit of adequately investing in America's water resources infrastructure speaks for itself. In 2010, our inland waterway system carried over 556 million tons of freight valued at more than \$180 billion. The average cost savings of \$11 per ton compared with other modes of transportation means the efficiency of waterway transportation saved the nation \$6.2 billion in transportation costs in 2010 alone. Investments in flood control projects have prevented an estimated \$22.3 billion in average annual damages from coastal and river-line flooding. These projects have prevented an estimated \$706 billion in flooding damages in the last 25 years.

This bill would help America more quickly realize the benefits of water resources projects in a fiscally responsible manner. Under this bill, the project authorization process will authorize congressionally-selected, high-priority project investments while deauthorizing non-priority projects, which allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to better focus on its mission. It helps ensure that pre-construction studies are limited to three years rather than the 10 to 15 years or more under existing policy. In addition, further leveraging government funds for water infrastructure projects through the bill's innovative financing pilot project program can help our nation meet its infrastructure improvement needs. Lastly, we appreciate this bill's commitment to help ensure that the nation's federally-maintained harbor and port navigation channels are fully maintained by expending more Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues for their authorized and intended purpose than currently spent.

This WRRDA bill provides a constructive foundation for the passage of a comprehensive water resources measure, which AGC will urge all Members of Congress to support. Thank you again for working in a bipartisan manner and crafting this WRRDA bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen E. Sandherr', is written over a white background.

Stephen E. Sandherr
Chief Executive Officer
The Associated General Contractors of America

cc: Members of the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee