



National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies
PO Box 56764, Washington, DC 20040
Phone: 202-289-8625
www.nafsma.org

September 16, 2013

Chairman Bill Shuster
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Nick Rahall
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Bob Gibbs
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Timothy Bishop
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), many of whom are non-federal partners on flood damage reduction and environmental restoration projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to express support for the Committee-drafted Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA) and to thank you for your leadership and efforts to move WRRDA forward this year.

NAFSMA appreciates the difficulty of drafting this much-needed bill in light of the serious economic issues facing the nation, at all levels of government, and the constraints of earmark limitations on this national authorization debate. We thank you for developing an approach to move critical flood damage reduction and other water resources projects forward and especially for recognizing the partnership role of the non-federal sponsor in a number of the provisions in this draft legislation.

The organization's members are concerned, however, about the lack of a transitional approach for Corps-partnered water resources projects that are far along in the Corps process, some of which may be even weeks or months short of achieving a chief's report. NAFSMA offers its assistance to help develop a transitional approach for these projects, while understanding that the House bill does offer a path for future project authorizations and implementation.

It is clear committee leadership has worked to include provisions developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reform the project planning process and we applaud the committee's efforts. NAFSMA members also appreciate the committee's provisions in the bill to improve existing permit processes impacting Corps-partnered water resource projects, while ensuring environmental protections remain in place.

We look forward to our continued work together to enact water resources legislation this year. Please contact me with any questions, or if NAFSMA can be of additional assistance at 202-289-8625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Gilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Gilson
Executive Director