

September 18, 2013

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned organizations urge you to move forward on H.R. 3080, the “Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA),” as soon as practicable. Long overdue, a new WRRDA bill would reform and authorize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (Army Corps) Civil Works programs and policies related to navigation, flood risk management, recreation, infrastructure and environmental stewardship.

This legislation would be an important step toward providing critical economic benefits to the nation, its people and businesses. Strategic investments in the nation’s navigation network have a dramatic direct-employment effect on the hardest hit segment of the economy— construction— while simultaneously delivering substantial benefits to the country’s global competitiveness. Based on a 2012 report conducted by the Associated Equipment Distributors, one dollar spent on infrastructure construction produces roughly double (\$1.92) the initial spending in direct and indirect economic output. The long-term impact is also significant, with a dollar in aggregate public infrastructure spending generating \$3.21 in economic output (GDP) over a 20-year period.

Maintaining our nation’s Federal channels to constructed dimensions and deepening channels to ensure the U.S. continues to have a world-class maritime transportation system are of critical importance to the health of the port and barge industries and the businesses and jobs that rely on them. International trade accounts for more than a quarter of the nation’s GDP and more than 38 million American jobs.

The United States needs to create a modern lock and dam infrastructure on the nation’s inland waterways. Effectively, all of America’s exports in commodities such as coal, fuel oils, gasoline, crude petroleum, and agriculture products such as grain and soy beans are shipped by water. Waterways are critical to keeping our domestic supply chain competitive. There is a \$14-per-ton cost savings for shipping on the inland waterways; this translates to farmer, shipper, and consumer cost savings, and reduced congestion on the roads and rails. However, while the private sector constantly updates its operations, our 21st century economy relies on 1930s-era technology for locks and dams.

Levees got a D- in the most recent American Society of Civil Engineers report card. A WRDA reauthorization bill should improve the safety of the nation’s dams and levees that protect communities, farms, manufacturing facilities and assets.

H.R. 3080 would deliver reforms and policies that would speed the Army Corps project delivery process, prioritize investments, provide resilience, protect communities, and keep faith with the Constitutional responsibility for supporting interstate commerce. Together, these results would create and sustain jobs and support the nation’s economy.

While a bill addressing a range of water issues and policies is not without some controversy, the United States should not miss opportunities to spur economic growth, improve our global competitiveness, and create jobs. We urge the House to move forward with consideration of a new WRRDA bill—the time to act is now.

Sincerely,

AGRI Services of Brunswick, LLC  
American Electric Power River Operations  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Commercial Lines  
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
American Public Works Association  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Arkansas Red River Commission/State of Arkansas  
Arkansas Waterways Commission  
Ashland Pharmacy  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of Alabama  
Associated General Contractors of Alaska  
Associated General Contractors of Arizona  
Associated General Contractors of Arkansas  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Associated General Contractors of California  
Associated General Contractors of Carolinas  
Associated General Contractors of Central Illinois  
Associated General Contractors of Colorado  
Associated General Contractors of Connecticut  
Associated General Contractors of East Tennessee  
Associated General Contractors of Georgia  
Associated General Contractors of Greater Florida  
Associated General Contractors of Hawaii  
Associated General Contractors of Idaho  
Associated General Contractors of Illinois  
Associated General Contractors of Iowa  
Associated General Contractors of Kansas  
Associated General Contractors of Kentucky  
Associated General Contractors of Las Vegas  
Associated General Contractors of Louisiana  
Associated General Contractors of Maine  
Associated General Contractors of Maryland  
Associated General Contractors of Metropolitan Washington DC  
Associated General Contractors of Michigan

Associated General Contractors of Minnesota  
Associated General Contractors of Mississippi  
Associated General Contractors of Mississippi Valley  
Associated General Contractors of Missouri  
Associated General Contractors of Montana  
Associated General Contractors of Nebraska  
Associated General Contractors of Nevada  
Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire  
Associated General Contractors of New Jersey  
Associated General Contractors of New Mexico  
Associated General Contractors of New York State  
Associated General Contractors of North Dakota  
Associated General Contractors of Oregon – Columbia  
Associated General Contractors of South Dakota  
Associated General Contractors of South Florida  
Associated General Contractors of St. Louis  
Associated General Contractors of Tennessee  
Associated General Contractors of Texas  
Associated General Contractors of Utah  
Associated General Contractors of Vermont  
Associated General Contractors of Virginia  
Associated General Contractors of Washington  
Associated General Contractors of Western Kentucky  
Associated General Contractors of West Virginia  
Associated General Contractors of Western Pennsylvania  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents  
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association  
Ben Dyer Associates, Inc.  
Big River Coalition  
Blue Valley Industrial Association  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership  
Calcasieu River Waterway Harbor Safety Committee  
Canal Barge Company  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Clay & Bailey Manufacturing Company  
Clearwater Hydrology  
Columbiana County Port Authority  
DSC Dredge, LLC  
Everglades Trust  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce  
General Building Contractors Association  
Granite Construction Incorporated  
Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition  
Greater Cleveland Partnership  
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association  
HNTB Corporation  
Holcim (US), Inc.  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Ingram Barge Company  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (Seaway Task Force Coalition)  
International Liquid Terminals Association  
International Propeller Club of the United States  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Jeffboat, LLC  
John Deere  
Kansas City Industrial Council  
Lake Carriers' Association  
Louisiana Maritime Association  
Maersk, Inc.  
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay  
Marquette Transportation Company, LLC  
Mid-America Intermodal Port  
Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition (MOARC)  
Missouri Port Authority Association  
Mississippi Water Resources Association  
National Association of Maritime Organizations  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Levee Issues Alliance  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Waterways Conference, Inc.  
NCI Building Systems, Inc.  
Ohio Contractors Association  
Oldcastle, Inc.  
Olsson Associates  
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association  
Port of Galveston  
Port of Portland  
Port of Virginia  
Portland Cement Association  
Ports Association of Louisiana  
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce  
R. M. Foti Engineering  
Red River Waterway Commission  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Southern Illinois Builders Association  
St. Charles Parish Government  
St. James Parish Government  
The Fertilizer Institute

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Fairness Coalition  
The National Industrial Transportation League  
The Propeller Club of the U.S. Port of New Orleans  
The Water Resource Coalition  
The Waterways Journal, Inc.  
Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Maritime Association  
Waterfront Coalition  
Waterways Council, Inc.  
World Trade Center New Orleans