



October 21, 2013

Speaker John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Member of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of the Water Resources Coalition, we are writing to applaud the House of Representatives for taking up the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA), H.R. 3080, this week. The WRC strongly supports efforts to invest in water resources infrastructure, and therefore supports WRRDA for addressing the nation's ports, levees, dams, and inland waterways. Our nation's water resources play a critical role in job creation, public safety, and the U.S. economy, meaning WRRDA is a vital piece of legislation.

Congress last passed a Water Resources Development Act in 2007, however traditionally the legislation is reauthorized every two years. Since that time, the American Society of Civil Engineer's 2013 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure* graded the nation's ports a "C", inland waterways a "D-", dams a "D", and levees a "D-". Our nation's water resources are critical to our economy, our infrastructure, public safety, and the preservation and enhancement of our environmental resources. A WRRDA bill that promotes economic growth, fosters environmental restoration, and job creation through policies that strengthen U.S. infrastructure will allow the nation to remain competitive in the Twenty-First Century.

The policy reforms included in WRRDA will consolidate or eliminate duplicative studies, permit concurrent reviews, and streamline environmental reviews in order to cut the time for project approvals 3 years. These reforms would not be all at the expense of environmental quality and would allow for a stronger national water resources infrastructure. Additionally, the WRC strongly supports language in the legislation that would incrementally increase expenditures out of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, with the goal to spend 80% of the funds annually by 2020. By spending resources that the Trust Fund is already bringing in, the nation can keep our nation's ports competitive.

The WRC supports the Water Resources Reform and Development Act and looks forward to working with Members of Congress to ensure that it passed by the full House of Representatives. The nation relies on strong water resources infrastructure for our economy, quality of life, and public safety, and WRRDA is a step toward achieving that goal.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Christianson
Co-Chair

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Co-Chair

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