



# International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

October 22, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

International Union of Operating Engineers wholeheartedly endorses H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents nearly 400,000 members in 123 local unions across the U.S. and Canada, including members who operate heavy equipment. In fact, thousands of Operating Engineers are building the nation's locks, dams, and levees, as well as dredging ports, harbors, and inland waterways.

The leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has demonstrated again that it can find bipartisan agreement on key transportation-authorizing legislation that moves our country forward, creates jobs and improves our competitiveness in the global economy.

The WRRDA legislation, H.R. 3080, addresses needed reforms within the Army Corps of Engineers, treating program administration and infrastructure investments in a more transparent and fiscally-responsible manner. In particular, the IUOE supports the language in the bill that is designed to increase expenditures in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, eventually leading to investment of up to 80% of the revenues into the fund by 2020 – a major improvement over the status quo.

Federal resources invested in our water-resources infrastructure will create thousands of good-paying construction jobs which will benefit not only the members of the Operating Engineers, but will address serious unemployment problems throughout the construction industry. Nearly 1.7 million construction workers have left the industry since the start of the Great Recession. We need to provide opportunities for them to return to the jobs for which they were trained through investing in American infrastructure.

Since the passage of the last WRDA in 2007, the United States water transportation infrastructure needs – the investments in ports and harbors, river channels, locks and dams, and other water transportation infrastructure – have only increased. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives the nation's inland waterways the grade of D-, the nation's dams a D, and America's ports a mediocre C. The country must do better in order to compete in the global economy.

The Operating Engineers look forward to working with conferees in both chambers to produce legislation that will be signed by the President this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James T. Callahan  
General President

JAMES T. CALLAHAN  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

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GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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