The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the federal government’s principal water resources development and management agency. The Corps’ mission includes river and coastal navigation, flood control, beach erosion control and shoreline protection, hydroelectric power, recreation, water supply, environmental protection, restoration and enhancement, and fish and wildlife mitigation. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorizes these projects.

Corps projects for maintaining harbors, such as dredging, are paid for through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), which is funded by a tax levied on importers and domestic shippers using coastal or inland parts. The HMTF may only be accessed by the Corps when Congress allocates dollars from it to specific projects.

For water infrastructure, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers three programs that help provide Americans with access to clean and safe water. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) is a financial assistance program to help drinking water systems and states improve drinking water treatment, source water supply, replace or construct finished water storage tanks, and other projects needed to protect public health. The Clean Water SRF provides financial assistance to help construct municipal wastewater facilities, control nonpoint sources of pollution, build decentralized wastewater treatment systems, and other water quality projects. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is a low-interest loan program to facilitate investment in infrastructure for clean water and drinking water. WIFIA was re-authorized by Congress in 2018.

Since 2014, Congress has passed a WRDA bill every two years to approve new Corps projects. The most recent WRDA, America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA), became law in 2018, authorizing 12 new Corps projects. The AWIA also reauthorized the Drinking Water SRF and WIFIA.

The Clean Water SRF has not been reauthorized in over thirty years, but was appropriated ~$1.7 billion in FY19. The Water Quality Protection and Jobs Creation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1497), introduced by Transportation & Infrastructure Chairman Pete DeFazio (D-OR) seeks to authorize the program at $4 billion per year.

The HMTF collects more revenues from shippers than Congress has provided to the Corps to maintain our harbors, with ~$10 billion in collected revenues sitting idle in the U.S. Treasury. Chairman DeFazio has sought to address these idle revenues in the last two WRDA bills.
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The cement and concrete industry depends upon our country’s water infrastructure to manufacture, protect, and transport its products. Congress has an opportunity and responsibility to protect these infrastructure investments from decline, which would harm the cement industry, the overall economy, and public health & safety.

Our waterways, whose maintenance is funded by the HMTF, are essential for moving minerals, cement, and concrete masonry to market, along with the tools & equipment necessary for construction. Flood control infrastructure, funded through Appropriations to the Corps, is critical for protecting plants, terminals, offices, and our communities in general. Our nation’s communities depend on safe drinking water and functioning sewage systems. The SRF and WIFIA provide critical loan assistance to maintain those drinking water and sewage systems.

To encourage and continue economic growth and protect public safety, the cement and concrete industry urges Congress to:

- **Support WRDA:** Continue to pass a WRDA bill every two years to address the backlog in investment of the nation’s large water infrastructure projects.
- **Ensure Water Infrastructure is Resilient and Cost-Effective:** Congress should require the use of sustainable materials and resilient construction techniques so that future projects leverage current technology, are responsible to the taxpayers, and minimize risk to life and property.
- **Put the HMTF to Work:** Congress should modernize the HMTF to ensure that dollars are spent for their intended purpose.
- **Cosponsor the Water Quality Protection and Jobs Creation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1497):** Reauthorization and investment in Clean Water SRFs provides an opportunity to increase investment in water treatment facilities across the country.