

North American Concrete Alliance

February 1, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Barrasso and Ranking Members Graves & Carper:

The members of the North American Concrete Alliance (NACA) thank you for making water infrastructure a priority and look forward to working with your committees to enact water resources development legislation this year. Our associations support increasing infrastructure investment in water resource projects and programs, and encourage the adoption of resiliency requirements in the same.

Formed in 2004, NACA is a coalition of 12 concrete and cement-related associations dedicated to addressing industry-wide priorities in the areas of research, safety, education and government affairs. Cement and concrete product manufacturing directly or indirectly employs approximately 610,000 people in our country, and our collective industries contribute over \$125 billion to our economy. Our member Associations represent businesses and talented workers in all fifty states.

It is imperative that Congress maintain the established two-year authorization cycle for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to ensure predictable water resource investment. NACA supports the committees' work to pass these important bills on a bi-annual basis so that we continue to keep our nation's water infrastructure up to date. Having a reliable reauthorization provides the nation with economic growth and opportunity to build the necessary infrastructure for the 21st century. NACA has supported consistently past water resources development legislation, including the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), and America's Water Infrastructure Act OF 2018 (AWIA).

Our coalition urges the increased use of resilient construction techniques and materials to ensure water infrastructure projects resist hazards brought on by major disasters, reduce the magnitude or duration of disruptions, and ensure structures are better able to withstand potentially disruptive events. Not only does resilient construction help save lives, it also reduces the costs borne by taxpayers in the wake of disasters.

The nation's network of 25,000 miles of waterways and 237 locks facilitates the delivery of more than 630 million tons of cargo per year and provides America's farmers and manufacturers with vital access to international markets. However, like America's other infrastructure modes, the system is aging and suffering from underinvestment. This, in turn, has made it less efficient and led to increased delays for shippers. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the nation's waterways a "D" grade.

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NACA and our members are continuing to do our part to support our nation's infrastructure needs. We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you to move WRDA rapidly through the legislative process and to the President's desk.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Concrete Pumping Association
Concrete Foundations Association
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute

National Concrete Masonry Association
National Precast Concrete Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
Portland Cement Association
Tilt-Up Concrete Association