

April 29, 2013

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The undersigned organizations urge you to move forward on S. 601, the “Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2013”, as soon as practicable. Long overdue, a new WRDA 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. We applaud the unanimous vote by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as a true bipartisan effort to report this bill to the full Senate for further consideration.

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.

S. 601 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 Senate to move forward with consideration of a new WRDA bill—the time to act is now.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Association of Port Authorities	Laborers International Union of North America
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association	Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
American Council of Engineering Companies	NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
American Farm Bureau Federation	National Grain and Feed Association
American Foundry Society	National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
American Public Works Association	National Retail Federation
American Road and Transportation Builders Association	National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)
American Society of Civil Engineers	National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
American Soybean Association	National Waterways Conference, Inc.
Associated Equipment Distributors	Plumbing Manufacturers International
Associated General Contractors of America	Portland Cement Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers	The American Institute of Architects
Clean Water Construction Coalition	The Fertilizer Institute
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Construction Management Association of America	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
International Liquid Terminals Association	Waterways Council Inc.
International Propeller Club of the United States	
International Union of Operating Engineers	

Alabama

Alabama Associated General Contractors	Vulcan Materials Company
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce	

Alaska

Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Arizona

Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors	Tucson Metro Chamber
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Arkansas

Associated General Contractors of Arkansas
Little Rock Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Western Arkansas Planning and
Development District

California

Associated General Contractors of
California Inc.
DC Inspections, Inc.
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Mobility 21

MWH Global
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
RSI Insurance Brokers, Inc
United Contractors

Colorado

Associated General Contractors of Colorado
CH2M HILL

Colorado Contractors Association

Connecticut

Associated General Contractors of
Connecticut

Connecticut Construction Industries
Association

Florida

Associated General Contractors Florida East
Coast Chapter
Associated General Contractors of Greater
Florida
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Inland Navigation District

Intermodal Marine Lines, LLC
Maritime Transport & Logistics Advisors,
LLC
South Florida Associated General
Contractors
Tampa Port Authority

Hawaii

General Contractors Association of Hawaii

Idaho

Idaho Associated General Contractors

Illinois

Caterpillar Inc.
Central Illinois Builders of AGC
Citizens Equity First Credit Union

Great Plains Laborer-Employers
Cooperation & Education Trusts
Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

Illinois (cont.)

Infrastructure Council of the Illinois
Chamber of Commerce
MA Steel Erectors, Inc.

Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port
District
Southern Illinois Builders Association

Indiana

American Commercial Lines Inc.

Iowa

Associated General Contractors of Iowa
Iowa Corn Growers Association

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Associated General Contractors of Kansas
Fidelity State Bank and Trust Company

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Contractors Association

Kentucky

Associated General Contractors of
Kentucky, Inc.
Associated General Contractors of Western
Kentucky

Crouse Corporation
Heartland Care Management
James Marine, Inc.

Louisiana

Blessey Marine Services, Inc.
Cajun Industries, LLC

Cycle Construction Co., LLC
Louisiana Associated General Contractors

Maine

Associated General Contractors of Maine

Maine Better Transportation Association

Maryland

Maryland Associated General Contractors

Maryland Transportation Builders and
Materials Association – MTBMA

Michigan

Associated General Contractors of Michigan

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Associated General Contractors of
Minnesota
Cargill, Incorporated

Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Upper River Services LLC

Mississippi

Associated General Contractors of
Mississippi

Chancellor & Son, Inc.

Missouri

Associated General Contractors of Missouri
Associated General Contractors of St. Louis

J. R. Simpson & Associates, Inc.
McCallie Marine Service, LLC

Montana

Montana Contractors Association

Nebraska

Associated General Contractors-Nebraska
Building Chapter
Kiewit Corporation
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Nebraska Chapter Associated General
Contractors
STP Advisory Services, LLC

Nevada

Nevada Chapter Associated General
Contractors

Nevada Contractors Association Associated
General Contractors

New Hampshire

Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Newark Regional Business Partnership

Utility Transportation Contractors
Association - New Jersey

New Mexico

Associated Contractors of New Mexico
Associated General Contractors - New
Mexico Building Branch

Greater Sandoval County Chamber of
Commerce

New York

Associated General Contractors of New York State
Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley New York, Inc.

General Contractors Association of New York
Parsons Brinckerhoff

North Carolina

Carolinas Associated General Contractors

North Dakota

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

American Electric Power
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Lake Carriers' Association

Ohio Contractors Association
River Trading Company LTD

Oklahoma

Tulsa Regional Chamber

Oregon

Associated General Contractors Oregon
Columbia Chapter

Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

Pennsylvania

Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania

General Building Contractors Association
The High Cos.

South Carolina

Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Associated General Contractors of South Dakota

Tennessee

Associated General Contractors of East
Tennessee
Associated General Contractors of
Tennessee
Heavy Machines, Inc.

Ingram Barge Company
McDaniel-Whitley, Inc.
Mississippi Valley Branch - Associated
General Contractors
Rogers Group Inc.

Texas

Associated General Contractors of Texas
Greater Houston Partnership
Half Associates, Inc
Longview Chamber of Commerce
National Levee Issues Alliance
NCI Building Systems, Inc.

Orion Marine Group, Inc.
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce
The Greater San Antonio Chamber of
Commerce

Vermont

Associated General Contractors of Vermont

Burke Mountain Resort

Virginia

Associated General Contractors of Virginia

R. Wilson, Inc.

Washington

Associated General Contractors of
Washington

Washington Council on International Trade

West Virginia

Contractors Association of West Virginia

Wisconsin

Dairyland Power Cooperative