The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

The nation’s water resources infrastructure is critical to our economy, public health, safety and the preservation and enhancement of our environmental resources. **On behalf of the 87 undersigned organizations, we strongly urge the Senate to take up and pass S.2848 the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016.**

The Environment and Public Works Committee passed the current WRDA bill out of committee with a bipartisan vote of 19-1 on April 28, 2016. The legislation makes a strong commitment to our nation’s critical water resources infrastructure by authorizing new Army Corps of Engineers projects and by making improvements to ports, inland harbors, waterways, dams and flood control systems. WRDA allows for repair and maintenance work that the nation’s water transportation systems desperately need. In addition, the bill promotes important environmental restoration projects which benefit not only ecosystems, but economies that rely on their healthy function.

Without action, delays may continue to unnecessarily increase project costs and jeopardize the efficacy of critical flood control structures. Project delays increase the price of goods and services which depend on efficient, reliable, and cost effective water borne transportation. Furthermore, maintaining a two-year cycle for the bill ensures project and program efficiency and moderates costs. With flooding persistent around the country this spring, it is important to mitigate risk upfront, to provide protection while reducing economic loss and disaster recovery costs.

Urgent action is critical. With only three weeks of work period remaining before the summer recess, the Senate should work to bring this bill to the floor as soon as possible. We urge the Senate to take up and pass the 2016 WRDA bill, S.2848. Our nation relies on these critical water resources systems and your strong leadership.

Sincerely,

American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Association of Port Authorities  
National Waterways Conference, Inc.  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Alliance for American Manufacturing  
Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Chemistry Council  
American Concrete Pipe Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Institute of Steel Construction  
American Iron and Steel Institute
U.S. Society of Dams
United Association Union of Plumber & Pipefitters
United Steelworkers
Vinyl Building Council
Vinyl Institute
Vision Long Island
Water & Sewer Distributors of America
Water Environment Federation
Water Infrastructure Network
Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board