

May 19, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 6,000 members of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, I strongly urge you to support the Conference Report to the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, H.R. 3080, to help upgrade the U.S. water transportation system. This important measure would benefit the economy of every state by ensuring the efficient movement of people and goods on a daily basis.

H.R. 3080, which originally passed the House 417 to 3, if enacted, would deliver critical investments in our nation's ports and waterways at a time when they are greatly needed. A number of changes to the world shipping fleet, including expansion of the Panama Canal, will bring larger cargo ships to U.S. shores. Furthermore, current forecasts show continued increases in freight movements through the nation's ports over the next decade. As such, federal investments to maintain and expand the capacity of the U.S. navigation system are essential to enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. The legislation would also take important steps to improve the effectiveness of federal water infrastructure investments by making the project review and approval process for water infrastructure improvements more efficient and less time consuming.

The economic benefits of H.R. 3080 would extend well beyond long-lasting, improved infrastructure. The projects supported by this legislation would also support jobs in the U.S. construction industry—which continues to suffer the after effects of the recession—and at the nation's seaports and other water infrastructure facilities.

We commend House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Ranking Democrat Nick Rahall (D-W.V.) and the other House conferees for working in a bipartisan manner with their Senate counterparts to develop this important legislation. We urge all representatives to support moving the Conference Report out of the House and to the Senate as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President and CEO