



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW WATER RESOURCES LEGISLATION WILL PROVIDE NEEDED REFORMS AND INVESTMENTS IN WATERWAYS, LOCKS, DAMS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
Top Construction Official Urges Congress to Act Swiftly to Pass Water Resources Reform & Development Act Released Today By a House-Senate Conference Committee to Help Economy, Lauds Bipartisan Support for Act

The chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America, Stephen E. Sandherr, issued the following statement in response to the release of the final version of the joint House-Senate conference committee's Water Resources Reform & Development Act:

“The release of this water resources bill is yet another sign that investing in infrastructure is something members of both parties in both houses of Congress can and do support. Republicans and Democrats alike understand and appreciate the economic wisdom of improving our aging system of inland waterways, harbors, ports, locks and dams. They also clearly support the need to adequately fund flood control protection and coastal restoration efforts.

“And the committee members clearly support providing additional resources needed to maintain the solvency of the federal Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and help shore up state revolving loan funds that finance investments in clean water systems. The members of the conference committee also wisely opted to expand opportunities to encourage private-sector investments in water resource projects.

“Moving forward, we are going to act aggressively to make sure this vital piece of legislation receives the kind of broad, bipartisan support in both the House and Senate that prior versions received. Our members will continue to contact their representatives to express their support until this and other important infrastructure legislation until they become law.”

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ALAN L. LANDES, President
CHARLES L. GRECO, Senior Vice President
MARK KNIGHT, Vice President
ERIC L. WILSON, Treasurer
STEPHEN E. SANDHERR, Chief Executive Officer
DAVID LUKENS, Chief Operating Officer

AGC of America

THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

Quality People. Quality Projects.



May 19, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2167 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (“AGC”), I thank you for your bipartisan effort on Water Resources Reform & Development Act of 2014 Conference Report. We believe this bill will modernize our nation’s aging navigational system of inland waterways, coastal harbors and ports, locks and dams, flood control protections, and critical environmental areas of our country. Your work on this bill will help promote economic growth while providing for better stewardship of federal resources.

The benefit of adequately investing in America’s water resources infrastructure speaks for itself. In 2010, our inland waterway system carried over 556 million tons of freight valued at more than \$180 billion. The average cost savings of \$11 per ton compared with other modes of transportation means the efficiency of waterway transportation saved the nation \$6.2 billion in transportation costs in 2010 alone. Investments in flood control projects have prevented an estimated \$22.3 billion in average annual damages from coastal and river-line flooding. These projects have prevented an estimated \$706 billion in flooding damages in the last 25 years.

We believe this bill will help America more quickly realize the benefits of water resources projects in a fiscally responsible and environmentally sound, streamlined manner. We are appreciative of your work to include a number of AGC priorities including the authorization of necessary water resources projects throughout the nation and limiting pre-construction studies to 3 years rather than the 10 to 15 years or more under existing policy. In addition, we are grateful for your hard work to further leverage government funds for water infrastructure projects through the bill’s improvements to the clean water state revolving fund and innovative financing pilot project program. Lastly, we appreciate this bill’s commitment to help ensure that the nation’s federally-maintained harbor and port navigation channels are fully maintained by expending more Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues for their authorized and intended purpose than currently spent.

Again, thank you for your work on this important bill for the construction industry. We look forward to working with you on swiftly enacting and efficiently implementing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Shoaf'.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government Affairs