



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

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Chairwoman Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Bill Shuster
U.S. House
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

Ranking Member David Vitter
U.S. Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall II
U.S. House
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Boxer, Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Vitter, and Ranking Member Rahall:

I am writing on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the voice of the nation’s engineering industry – to offer our strong support for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) conference report. This bipartisan legislation includes critical reforms that will enhance the ability of federal and state agencies and their private sector partners to more efficiently deliver critical water resource projects to the public.

ACEC members – numbering more than 5,000 firms representing more than 500,000 employees throughout the country – are engaged in a wide range of engineering works that propel the nation’s economy and enhance and safeguard America's quality of life. These works allow Americans to drink clean water, enjoy a healthy life, take advantage of new technologies, and travel safely and efficiently.

Passage of WRRDA should be a top congressional priority. Investments in projects to enhance the nation’s ports and waterways, reduce flood risks, and bolster resilience against storms will save lives and property, create jobs and enhance the nation’s long-term economic competitiveness. The last water resources bill became law in 2007, and new policy changes and reforms are needed to modernize water resources infrastructure and maintain the flow of commerce. We commend the conference report for its numerous reforms to improve the process of delivering projects to the public while maintaining responsible environmental safeguards, its innovative financing alternatives, and the creation of a National Levee Safety Program.

The report also protects the critical role that America's engineering industry plays in partnering with federal and state agencies on water resource projects. Congress embraced this principle previously in WRDA 2000 and continues to embrace it in WRRDA 2014.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act is a responsible step in the right direction towards advancing America's water resources infrastructure needs. ACEC strongly urges passage of this legislation.



David A. Raymond
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