



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**J. Michael Patterson, Executive Director**  
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December 7, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and  
Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Gibbs, and Ranking Member Napolitano:

The great strides, determination, and support the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment has made in advancing water resources infrastructure is commendable. Thank you for your leadership in promoting the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 and the commitment you have exhibited in moving this important legislation forward within two years of WRRDA 2014.

WRDA 16 represents the first time projects and studies will be authorized using the new processes set forth in Section 7001 of WRRDA 14. This is an important provision, providing non-federal sponsors a stronger voice in determining which studies and projects should be authorized. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation supports passage of WRDA 16, and recognizes the critical role our nation's water resources infrastructure plays in a prosperous economy, job creation, public safety and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned over the typed name and title of the sender.

J. Michael Patterson  
Executive Director

cc: Gary Ridley, Secretary of Transportation  
Dawn Sullivan, Director of Capital Programs  
Clint Herring, Chairman – ODOT Waterways Advisory Board  
Amy Larson, Executive Director – National Waterways Conference  
Gene Higginbotham, Executive Director – Arkansas Waterways Commission  
Deidre Smith, Waterways Manager

*"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."*

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