

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall, II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boxer, Chairman Shuster, Senator Vitter and Representative Rahall:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) strongly supports the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Conference Report and urges the prompt passage of this landmark legislation.

ASCE's 2013 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure* graded the nation's ports a "C", inland waterways a "D-", dams a "D", and levees a "D-". Our nation's water resources infrastructure is critical to our economy, public safety, and the preservation and enhancement of our environmental resources. In fact, ASCE's *Failure to Act* economic study on the nation's marine ports and inland waterways shows that underinvesting in just these two sectors threatens more than 1 million U.S. jobs and \$270 billion in U.S exports by 2020.

ASCE is pleased to see that the WRRDA conference report makes a strong commitment to our nation's critical water resources infrastructure and ASCE strongly supports language that:

- Strengthens the National Levee Safety Initiative;
- Reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program;
- Restores trust to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund;
- Creates a new Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation program; and
- Streamlines the project approval process for water resources projects.

Our nation relies on our ports and inland waterways system to move goods and support the economy. WRRDA will allow for the repair and maintenance work that the system so desperately needs.

On behalf of ASCE, we thank you for your leadership in advancing this important piece of infrastructure legislation. Again, we urge timely passage of WRRDA when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Over", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randall (Randy) S. Over, P.E., F.ASCE
2014 ASCE President