

Portland Cement Association
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May 19, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
B370 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
B375 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall, Subcommittee Chairman Gibbs and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of America's Cement Manufacturers, I write to express our strong support for the bipartisan "Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014" Conference Report.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), is wonderful news for those who rely on our Nation's water infrastructure. From raw materials like stone and gravel; to the food and clothes we buy; to cement; everyone has a stake in our Nation's navigable water infrastructure.

The WRRDA Conference Report will provide critical investment and direction to improve our waterways infrastructure, including our Nation's ports, levees, locks, dams, and flood damage protection. The policy reforms of the Conference Report will improve the project delivery process and help enhance the efficiency of the work being done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The cement industry supports efforts to more closely align the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues with expenditures. Our Nation's ports, for example, account for 99% of our international trade, adding up to \$1.4 trillion in goods on an annual basis. In addition, our industry is pleased to see the innovative financing provisions, which will leverage more funding for water infrastructure projects. This is just what businesses, consumers, and our economy need right now in a challenged economy.

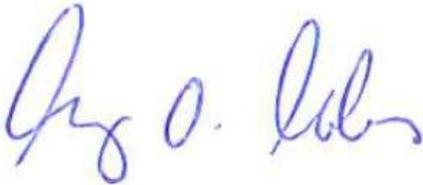
The cement industry appreciates the attention given to durability, sustainability, and resilient construction techniques within the final legislation. It is estimated that the flood damage prevented by the Army Corps comes to \$22.3 billion per year. A National Institute of Building Sciences Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council study reported that every dollar spent on reducing the potential impact of disasters saves society an average of \$4.00.

The WRRDA Conference Report recognizes the multiple societal and financial benefits of using resilient construction methodologies, such as the ability to withstand major disasters, the ability of a property to operate during a disaster event, and the ability to recover more quickly from a major disaster. Our industry appreciates your attention and your recognition to this issue.

Thank you for your leadership on the Nation's water resources infrastructure. We urge you and your colleagues to pass the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 Conference Report.

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone at ccohrs@americacementcompany.com or 352-569-5393 or Justin Louchheim at jlouchheim@cement.org or 202-408-9494.

Sincerely,



Cary Cohrs
Chairman of the Board
Portland Cement Association
President
American Cement Company, LLC

Cc: U.S. House of Representatives