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June 24, 2025

Chairman Sam Graves
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

Ranking Member Rick Larsen
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

Re: Clean Water Act Permitting Efficiency Bills

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the leading association in the construction industry representing more than 28,000 firms, including America's leading general contractors and specialty-contracting firms – thank you for holding today's markup on legislation to streamline the Clean Water Act (CWA). AGC appreciates the leadership shown by the committee in advancing [common sense reforms to improve CWA permitting](#).

AGC members routinely seek and obtain CWA permits for dredge and fill activities (section 404) as well as for stormwater discharges (section 402) on construction projects across the nation. As such, we are supportive of the many measures within the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's bill package, for example:

- Limits [CWA section 401](#) state water quality approvals to impacts on water quality;
- Ensures that [section 402](#), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, permits clearly describe the numerical limit or appropriate narrative description of required actions necessary for compliance;
- Codifies some of the long-standing exclusions within the [section 404](#) permitting program, such as ephemeral features and groundwater;
- Limits the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from vetoing section 404 permits either preemptively or after the permit has been issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- Restricts lawsuits over a section 404 permit to the first sixty days of its issuance;
- Requires the Corps to address the backlog of more than 3,500 pending jurisdictional determinations;
- Extends the maximum permitting period for nationwide permits from five to ten years; and
- Requires EPA to streamline the state assumption process for section 404 permitting.

We appreciate your commitment to permitting reform. If you have any questions, please reach out to AGC's [Melinda Tomaino](#), Senior Director of Environment and Sustainability, or [John Chambers](#), Utility Infrastructure Division Director.

Sincerely,

Alex Etchen
Vice President, Government Relations