

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending America's free enterprise system, applauds Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, and all members of the Committee on the introduction of H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016." This bill, which would ensure the viability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works programs including navigation, flood risk management, recreation, and infrastructure and environmental stewardship, would be an important step toward providing critical economic benefits to the nation.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 would authorize 28 new Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works projects, while continuing to reauthorize this important program every two years. H.R. 5303 would also continue to clarify the targets for increased Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) funding, to ensure that collected revenue is being used for its intended purpose.

This measure would continue to build upon the streamlining provisions in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, to allow expedited approval for modifications to existing Corps projects. Additionally, the bill expands the role of local partners in using non-federal interests in implementation and coordination with Corps projects.

The Chamber supports H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, and urges a swift markup so that the bill can move to the full House for consideration.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten