

MARK KNIGHT, President
ART DANIEL, Senior Vice President
B.E. STEWART, JR., Vice President
SCOTT WILLIAMS, Treasurer
STEPHEN E. SANDHERR, Chief Executive Officer
DAVID LUKENS, Chief Operating Officer

AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



May 23, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 at Committee Markup

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

I strongly urge you to support to the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA) at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup. This legislation authorizes essential construction projects executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and state and local agencies that help protect Americans from floods and natural disasters, enable the nation's waterborne commerce to reach harbors on the coasts and inland waterway ports, and restore environmentally sensitive areas of the country. Enactment of this legislation would help improve the flood safety, environment and economic standing of our nation.

Specifically, the legislation does this by:

- Authorizing high cost/benefit value USACE water resources construction projects in a fiscally sound, responsible and transparent manner, with input from local, state and federal government entities as well as Congress;
- Deauthorizing low-value USACE water resources construction projects, which allows the agency to clear its books and better prioritize efforts on high-value projects; and
- Providing congressional oversight of USACE processes under regular order.

Investment in USACE water resources projects—locks, dams, levees, harbor maintenance and environmental restoration, among them—generates a 16-to-1 return in economic benefits, and a 5-to-1 return in revenue to the U.S. Department of Treasury. The WRDA bill put before the committee will help America continue to realize those benefits. As such, AGC strongly urges you to support the WRDA bill at committee markup.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director, Government Affairs

CC: Members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee