



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

*Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource*

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The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

December 6, 2016

Dear Speaker Ryan:

I am writing on behalf of the American Public Works Association (APWA) in support of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. We appreciate your continued attention to our nation's navigable waterways and flood control infrastructure.

As public works professionals, APWA's more than 29,000 members serve communities that rely on WRDA projects to protect the public health, safety and welfare of their communities. Working with local partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) WRDA projects have successfully protected hundreds of communities from flooding. Corps history demonstrates that, in 2014 alone, flood risk management projects prevented an estimated \$23 billion in flood damage. Accordingly, the Corps says that for every dollar spent, approximately six dollars in potential damages has been saved. Recent increases in the number and severity of damaging weather events has exposed gaping vulnerabilities in the nation's flood control infrastructure and will continue to affect these failing facilities in the years to come. It is essential this vital piece of legislation be acted upon by Congress to continue such important initiatives.

Since the previous WRDA was passed in 2013, twenty-five projects that have reports signed by the Chief of Engineers are included in S. 612. These projects are essential not only for the Corps to continue to carry out its vital national mission but for assistance to our local communities to improve failing infrastructure. As we have seen from flooding in the South this year, our nation cannot be adequately protected from the risk of floods if our flood control infrastructure is inadequate and crumbling. Considering the economic and risk-to-life if WRDA does not become law, we thank you for your considerable efforts to move this legislation this Congress.

PRESIDENT
Ronald J. Calkins, PE., PWLF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Scott D. Grayson

On behalf of public works professionals nationally, we thank you for your leadership and, please know we are committed to working with you on our common goal of protecting and improving our nation's water resources. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Reiner at JReiner@apwa.net, or (202) 218-6734.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Calkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small horizontal line at the end.

Ronald J. Calkins, PE, PWLF
President, APWA