

July 8, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), I write to express our strong support for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 and sincere gratitude for the Committee's continued bipartisan work to advance this critical legislation on schedule.

AAPA is the unified voice of public port authorities throughout the United States, representing seaports that serve as essential gateways for international trade, economic growth, national security, energy movement, cruise terminals, and supply chain resilience. Our nation's ports rely on a strong and predictable federal navigation program, and WRDA remains one of the most important legislative vehicles for ensuring that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the authorities, tools, and direction needed to maintain and improve America's water resources infrastructure.

AAPA sincerely appreciates the Committee's inclusion of several key port industry priorities in the WRDA 2026 draft bill including:

Section 106, which would provide important flexibility for non-federal sponsors to contribute funds to address cost overruns and avoid unnecessary work stoppages on critical USACE projects;

Section 111, the Dredging Coordination Improvement Act, which would improve communication, transparency, and coordination between the USACE and non-federal sponsors regarding maintenance dredging needs, schedules, and execution; and

Section 114, which would strengthen implementation of the Donor and Energy Transfer Port Program by removing qualifying language that has allowed the USACE to withhold funding from eligible donor ports and expanded-use activities authorized by Congress.

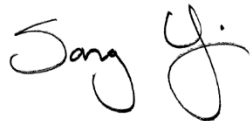
These provisions reflect meaningful progress for America's ports and the Committee's collaboration with constituencies to support broader maritime transportation system needs. We are especially appreciative of the Committee's attention to ensuring more reliable Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund implementation, improving project delivery, and strengthening the partnership between the USACE and local port sponsors.

AAPA will continue to advocate for additional port priorities as the WRDA process moves forward, including through the Senate and any future legislative opportunities. Meanwhile, we believe this draft bill represents an important and constructive step toward addressing several long-standing challenges facing the port and navigation community.

Timely passage of WRDA on its traditional two-year cycle is itself a critical priority. Maintaining that schedule amidst major legislative challenges is no small accomplishment. As the bill progresses, AAPA strongly supports the Committee's efforts to advance WRDA 2026 in a bipartisan manner and stands ready to assist.

Thank you again for your leadership, your public service, and your continued commitment to America's ports, waterways, and water resources infrastructure. Please do not hesitate to contact AAPA if we can provide any additional information or support as this important legislation advances.

Sincerely,



Sang Yi
President & CEO
American Association of Port Authorities