



LINDA BAUER DARR  
PRESIDENT & CEO

September 13, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman, House Transportation  
& Infrastructure Committee  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member, House Transportation  
& Infrastructure Committee  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman, House Energy  
& Commerce Committee  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, House Energy  
& Commerce Committee  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Shuster, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member DeFazio and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – I want to express our support for the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*, legislation that will focus federal investment on critical water resource needs around the country, expand financing options for drinking water projects, and make other improvements in the delivery of water infrastructure upgrades to the public.

The importance of investing in our nation’s ports, waterways, locks and dams, as well as projects to mitigate against flood events, cannot be overstated, and this legislation continues the bipartisan work in Congress to prioritize and advance these critical water resource needs.

ACEC is particularly pleased that the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act* also puts emphasis on the broader water and wastewater needs facing our state and local government and utility clients, and the ratepayers they serve. We support provisions in the bill to reauthorize and expand loans under the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, as well as the reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. ACEC is very supportive of the so-called SRF WIN provision in the bill, which will make it easier for state financing authorities to utilize the WIFIA mechanism for water projects.

The Senate version of the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act* (Section 5005) included language to ensure that taxpayer dollars in the SRF program are invested in the most qualified engineering service providers on projects to protect drinking water, similar to what Congress has already approved for the wastewater SRF program. Unfortunately, this reform was not included in the final version of the bill, but we hope to work with you in future legislation to put into place uniform protections to ensure that properly qualified engineering firms are put to work on critical water projects.

Thank you for your leadership in crafting this bipartisan legislation, and we urge House members to support the *America's Water Infrastructure Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Bauer Darr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "D" at the end.

Linda Bauer Darr  
President & CEO