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September 11, 2018

AGC KEY VOTE: VOTE "YES" ON AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2018 (S. 3021)

Dear Representative/Senator,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), a national construction trade association representing more than 27,500 firms including America's leading general contractors, specialty contractors, service providers, and suppliers, I am writing to urge you to vote "YES" on the House Amendment to S. 3021, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" and to notify you of our intent to record your vote as a "KEY VOTE" for the education of our members.

This bill would authorize needed funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works projects, including navigation (dredging, locks), flood control (levees), hydropower (dams), and water supply projects, as well as critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Water resources infrastructure is critical to the economy and yields high returns on investment. Harbors maintained by USACE handle 95 percent of America's import and export trade, while the inland waterways system moves freight at half the cost of rail and one-tenth the cost of truck transportation. Spending just above \$5 billion a year on this program generates an estimated net benefit of \$87.1 billion in economic development, a 16-to-1 return, and \$27.3 billion in revenue to the U.S. Treasury, a 5-to-1 return. Critically, USACE projects prevent an estimated \$48.5 billion in annual economic losses from damaging storms and severe weather.

Turning to traditional water infrastructure, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's most recent surveys estimated approximately \$655 billion of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs nationwide over the next 20 years. There are about 52,000 community water systems and 16,000 public wastewater treatment systems that provide drinking water and wastewater services to much of the population, many of which need repair and upgrade.

This legislation includes a host of provisions that help address the country's water resources and water infrastructure needs. In particular, AGC supports the following provisions within S. 3021:

- Reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for \$50 million annually in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and providing a new authorization for the funding of State Revolving Funds with WIFIA dollars;
- Reaffirming a federal commitment to State Revolving Funds;
- Authorization of capital grants for State Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Loan Funds;
- Establishing an innovative water infrastructure workforce development program;
- Authorization of feasibility studies and critical projects;
- Making publicly available Army Corps of Engineers' real estate assets; and
- Rehabilitation of USACE constructed dams.

Again, AGC urges you to vote "Yes" on S. 3021 and will record your vote as a key vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Neill
Vice President, Congressional Relations & Infrastructure Advancement