

June 30, 2026



The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), representing more than 16,000 landscape architects nationwide, I write to express ASLA's support for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026. We commend the Committee's bipartisan leadership in advancing legislation that strengthens the nation's water resources infrastructure and helps communities better prepare for flooding, extreme weather, and other water resource challenges.

ASLA is particularly encouraged that WRDA 2026 includes policies to promote the use of nature-based features, which reduce risk while delivering environmental, economic, and social benefits; advance community engagement and public participation; and minimize disruptions to community recreation projects.

WRDA 2026 encourages greater consideration of nature-based features in water management projects. Landscape architects are leaders in planning and designing water management projects that successfully use nature-based features—including restored wetlands and floodplains, living shorelines, green stormwater infrastructure, and other resilient landscape strategies—that reduce flood risk, improve water quality, restore ecosystem function, and strengthen community resilience.

ASLA also appreciates the bill's emphasis on community outreach during project planning, recognizing that early engagement with local governments, Tribal



communities, residents, and other stakeholders leads to stronger projects and more durable outcomes. These collaborative partnerships help ensure water resources investments reflect local priorities and deliver lasting benefits for the communities they serve.

Finally, ASLA welcomes the bill's recognition of the importance of minimizing disruptions to public recreational amenities during the planning, construction, and implementation of water resources projects. Parks, trails, waterfronts, and other public open spaces are essential community assets that contribute to public health, local economies, and quality of life. Maintaining access to these amenities whenever practicable helps ensure communities continue to benefit from these resources while critical infrastructure improvements are underway.

For these reasons, ASLA respectfully urges the Committee to advance the Water Resources Development Act of 2026. This bipartisan legislation builds upon WRDA's long tradition of strengthening federal, state, Tribal, and local partnerships while promoting resilient, cost-effective water resources solutions that will benefit communities for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to strengthening the nation's water resources infrastructure. ASLA looks forward to working with the Committee to advance WRDA 2026 and support its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Torey Carter-Conneen, Hon. ASLA
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Landscape Architects