



June 30, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I write in support of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA)*. IME applauds the Committee's continued commitment to advancing bipartisan legislation that improves our nation's critical water resources infrastructure.

Founded in 1913, IME is a trade association whose mission is to promote the safe and secure manufacture, transport, distribution, and use of commercial explosives. IME's members include manufacturers, distributors, and users of commercial explosives and other companies that provide related products and services. The commercial explosives industry is vital to the U.S. economy, contributing more than \$19 billion annually, creating 15,000 direct industry jobs and supporting more than 60,000 total jobs.

Commercial explosives are essential to the construction and maintenance of America's infrastructure. Construction and expansion of ports, and dredging activities to maintain navigable waterways, are accomplished directly and indirectly with the use of commercial explosives. For example, quarries in all 50 states use commercial explosives to efficiently extract the aggregates used to build and maintain locks, dams, levees, flood control projects, navigation channels, and other water infrastructure that supports the movement of goods throughout the country.

The bipartisan WRDA of 2026 continues Congress's practice of enacting a water resources development bill every two years, providing certainty for communities, project sponsors, contractors, and the industries that supply these important projects. Maintaining this regular authorization cycle also allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advance locally driven projects that improve navigation, reduce flood risks, strengthen supply chains, and enhance the resilience of America's infrastructure.

Thank you again for introducing the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026*. IME looks forward to working with the committee to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Mica', with a stylized, flowing script.

J. Clark Mica
President

Cc: Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure