June 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chair Collins and Ranking Member Wilson:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the only organization representing the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs, I write to express our strong support for the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026* and urge its swift passage. America's counties invest roughly $134 billion annually in public works and infrastructure – including the construction, operation, and maintenance of local drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems – making county governments among the most significant partners in the nation's water infrastructure enterprise. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation is essential to ensuring that partnership works effectively for communities across the country.

As owners, users and regulators of water resources and infrastructure, counties are directly impacted by the policies and funding levels authorized in WRDA legislation. As the authorizing legislation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), WRDA provides county governments critical assistance to protect, maintain and develop water infrastructure systems. WRDA legislation advances county interests related to ports, inland waterways, levees, dams, wetlands, watersheds and coastal restoration.

WRDA 2026 includes multiple provisions beneficial to counties that strengthen the role of non-Federal sponsors in shaping the schedules and costs of feasibility studies, direct the Corps to use an electronic tracking system for project permits to increase timeline transparency, and establish two new Continuing Authorities Programs for drought resilience and flood risk management that will provide counties with new opportunities to upgrade levees and flood control projects. The WRDA 2026 legislation also directs the Corps to establish offices with expertise on inland navigation, alternative delivery, water supply, and technical assistance which will improve communication and partnership between the Corps and non-Federal sponsors.

This bipartisan legislation would advance county interests and help counties achieve economic development initiatives and support water infrastructure needs. Counties appreciate your leadership in championing this legislation and thank you for your commitment to maintaining the biennial WRDA cycle. Counties strongly support the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026* and look forward to working with you to support our nation's water infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase

Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties