



Christopher Phalen
Vice President, Domestic Policy

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 National Association of Manufacturers, I write in support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA 2026). The NAM also strongly supports Congress' continued commitment to the biennial WRDA process, which provides the certainty needed to advance critical water infrastructure projects. A robust water resources development bill is essential to maintaining and modernizing the ports, inland waterways, flood protection systems, and other critical infrastructure that support manufacturing in America, strengthen supply chains, enhance economic competitiveness, and bolster national security.

The NAM is the voice of the manufacturing community and the leading advocate for a policy agenda that supports and empowers the 13 million people who make things in America. As the largest manufacturing association in the United States, the NAM's membership includes manufacturers of all sizes, across every industrial sector, and in all 50 states. Manufacturers collectively contribute \$2.9 trillion to the U.S. economy and depend on modern, efficient infrastructure systems to support communities and move raw materials, components, and finished goods throughout the country. The nation's ports, harbors, inland waterways, network of locks and dams, and flood protection infrastructure are important elements of that system and help support economic growth, trade, and supply chain reliability.

WRDA 2026 represents an important investment in America's long-term economic competitiveness through improvements to navigation infrastructure, flood risk management, and project delivery. Manufacturers appreciate the bill's emphasis on strengthening ports and inland waterways, expanding tools available to non-federal project sponsors, improving project delivery, and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). These investments are critical to maintaining the reliability of the nation's freight transportation network and supporting the movement of raw materials, energy products, agricultural commodities, and manufactured goods. Modern and efficient waterways infrastructure strengthens supply chains, improves freight mobility, supports domestic production, and helps ensure manufacturers can compete in a global economy.

Beyond their importance to freight movement, USACE-managed waterways generate substantial economic and community benefits for regions across the country. The infrastructure maintained by the agency supports waterfront development, tourism, outdoor recreation, flood resilience, and other activities that contribute to local economic growth and manufacturing, as well as quality of life. USACE projects frequently serve multiple purposes simultaneously, creating opportunities for both commercial activity and recreation while supporting long-term private investment in surrounding communities. As Congress continues to improve the efficiency

and effectiveness of the Civil Works program, the NAM supports efforts to strengthen partnerships with private-sector stakeholders and ensure recreation assets associated with federal water resources projects can be managed in a manner that promotes long-term investment in waterways and operational certainty.

The NAM also supports continued efforts to modernize recreation-related program administration and encourages continued consideration of policies that could improve the management of recreation assets associated with federal water resources projects. Timely reinvestment of user-generated revenues, predictable leasing frameworks, and streamlined administrative processes can encourage long-term investment in marinas, waterfront facilities, and other recreation infrastructure to help communities maximize the benefits of federal water resources assets.

The NAM appreciates the bipartisan leadership of Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen, Subcommittee Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Wilson, and the many Members of the Committee who contributed to the development of WRDA 2026. This commitment to strengthening the nation's water resources infrastructure and improving project delivery helps support manufacturers and industrial sectors across the country. Maintaining the biennial reauthorization cycle is essential to providing certainty for project delivery, and for the communities and industries that depend on these investments. The NAM strongly supports WRDA 2026 and encourages the Committee to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Phalen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher Phalen
Vice President, Domestic Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirbie Ferrell". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirbie Ferrell
Director, Transportation and Infrastructure Policy