

June 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

The Honorable Frederica Wilson
Ranking Member
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Wilson,

On behalf of the nation's more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) applauds the bipartisan efforts of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in developing the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (H.R. 9497). This bill is a positive step to ensure Congress continues the two-year authorization cycle and we urge Congress to enact a bill by the end of the year.

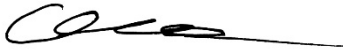
The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) drives investment in navigation, flood protection and ecosystem restoration in communities. Local governments own and manage much of this infrastructure, including ports and harbors, inland waterways, levees, and dams that protect public health and safety and our natural resources. WRDA is critical to helping communities build, maintain and improve this critical infrastructure, while growing our national and local economies.

We thank committee leaders for including a provision that supports flood mitigation and resilience through both structural and nonstructural approaches to flood risk management. With the rise in increasingly catastrophic and costly extreme weather events, intense flooding has become an unwelcome reality for many communities. Local leaders ask for a strong federal partner to make communities more resilient.

Additionally, NLC supports provisions that further strengthen intergovernmental collaboration through stakeholder engagement and financial contributions from non-federal partners, such as a local government, to keep projects moving forward.

On behalf of the nation's cities, towns and villages, thank you again for working in a bipartisan manner to move this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the safety and modernization of our nation's water infrastructure remains a top national priority. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Carolyn Berndt at 202-626-3101 or Berndt@nlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence E. Anthony', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director