

June 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

On behalf of the National Water Resources Association, I write to express our support for the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 and to thank the Committee for continuing its bipartisan work to advance critical water resources infrastructure legislation.

Given the scope of the bill, NWRA is still reviewing some of the technical aspects of the draft and may offer targeted recommendations as the bill continues to move through the legislative process. We look forward to working with the Committee in a collaborative manner and appreciate that the bill, as currently drafted, includes a number of priority issues identified by water and hydropower providers.

NWRA represents agricultural, municipal, industrial, and regional water providers across the western United States. WRDA remains an important legislative vehicle for advancing Corps Civil Works projects, improving project delivery, addressing aging infrastructure, supporting flood risk management, and strengthening federal cooperation with states and local water users.

NWRA appreciates the Committee's continued focus on locally driven projects and reforms that improve the ability of non-federal interests to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For many water users, the ability to move projects forward in a timely and practical manner depends on clear direction from Congress, accountable federal implementation, and a Corps process that recognizes the needs and responsibilities of local sponsors.

NWRA also supports the Committee's attention to water supply, water conservation, and drought resiliency. These issues are central to communities, farms, businesses, and water providers throughout the West. Improved coordination within the Corps on these matters could help non-federal interests better understand available authorities, evaluate water supply opportunities, and work through existing Corps processes more effectively.

At the same time, NWRA members have noted language in the bill related to the proposed Office of Water Supply, Water Conservation, and Drought Resiliency that deserves careful attention as the bill moves forward. In particular, members have raised questions about language referring to modifying project operations under other authorities to produce water supply benefits, as well as related language concerning adjustments to releases for other authorized purposes. NWRA does not read this language as creating a new stand-alone authority for the Corps to reallocate storage or alter project operations outside existing law. However, we respectfully request that Congress and the Corps ensure that these provisions are interpreted and implemented in a manner that fully respects existing project purposes, state water rights, existing contracts, cost allocations, operational responsibilities, and the role of affected non-federal interests.

As WRDA 2026 moves through the legislative process, NWRA encourages the Committee to maintain clear guardrails around any Corps actions related to water supply, conservation, drought resiliency, and reservoir operations. Any implementation of these provisions should remain consistent with existing law and should not be used to modify authorized project purposes, affect existing water rights or contracts, or alter current operations without the applicable legal process and meaningful involvement from affected stakeholders.

NWRA appreciates the Committee's bipartisan leadership on WRDA 2026 and supports moving the bill forward. We look forward to working with the Committee, Subcommittee, and staff as this legislation advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Morrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Morrison
Executive Vice President
National Water Resources Association