



December 5, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies – the business voice of the engineering industry – I am writing to express our support for S. 4367, the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024* (WRDA 2024). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will provide critical investments in our nation’s water resources infrastructure, as well as responsibly address fiscal challenges with the Federal Highway Program, fund regional economic development initiatives, and make reforms to the General Services Administration.

Enacting a WRDA bill every two years ensures that the Army Corps of Engineers has the authority to carry out timely studies and projects to build and maintain critical water infrastructure across the country. WRDA 2024 authorizes 162 new feasibility studies and 21 project authorizations among other reforms to the Army Corps’ programs and processes. Projects authorized by this legislation will invest in our economy by enabling more efficient freight movement on our waterways, address necessary coastal protection and flood risk management, and restore aquatic ecosystems. The bill also authorizes nearly 200 projects in 31 states to improve water and wastewater infrastructure, water supply, and stormwater management. These projects will help communities across the country provide access to clean drinking water and improve water quality by upgrading wastewater and stormwater systems.

We are pleased to see that WRDA 2024 also reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program through 2028. ACEC supports the reauthorization of this vital program in the bill, which will continue to provide support to states to maintain and repair high-risk dams to protect public safety.

WRDA 2024 also includes the *Fiscally Responsible Highway Funding Act of 2024*. This legislation helps address the challenges faced by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) due to the increasingly large amounts of highway funding subject to the annual August

Redistribution process. Redistributing excess TIFIA contract authority back to the states through the formula program will provide State DOTs with greater funding certainty and ease the burden of August Redistribution in a responsible way.

We appreciate your continued bipartisan commitment to the biennial WRDA process and look forward to a strong bipartisan vote in Congress to send this important bill to the President's desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Bauer Darr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Bauer Darr  
President & CEO