



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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December 6, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As leaders of the American Public Works Association (APWA), an organization representing over 32,000 public works professionals in communities of all sizes across North America, we are reaching out on behalf of our members to voice support for the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA)*.

We are pleased to see the legislation remains a bipartisan and bicameral product that supports a diverse array of locally driven projects that also deliver regional and national benefits. APWA members are responsible for designing, building, operating, and maintaining much of our nation's infrastructure including water infrastructure such as ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood and storm protection, and more. They strongly value collaboration with federal parties like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works Program to successfully deliver critical water resources improvements for communities across the country.

Investing in these projects is critical to growing our economy, creating jobs, strengthening our supply chains, and a better quality of life for all Americans. In some cases, these projects can be a matter of life and death especially as we work to protect our communities from more extreme weather and manage risk particularly for areas most vulnerable. Consequently, it is reassuring to see the National Dam Safety Program reauthorized through 2028 combined with modifications to the High Hazard Potential Dam program and requiring rehabilitated dams are maintained and appropriate floodplain management plans are in place. These efforts will be bolstered too by the significant funding allocated towards nature-based solutions including restoration of ecosystems like wetlands and watersheds.

PRESIDENT
Dominick A. Longobardi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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We are also grateful to see the agreement includes provisions to redistribute unobligated balances from the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program and changes in ownership of public buildings with oversight from Congress and in consultation with the surrounding communities. These were pleasant additions along with reauthorizing and modernizing the Economic Development Administration for the first time since 2004 and other regional commissions whose mission is to spur economic growth in distressed communities across the country.

The incorporated policy and programmatic reforms to streamline USACE processes are also welcome components to the bill and will allow for more efficient and timely completion of vital projects. We look forward to continuing to build on these efforts to further expedite permitting in the next Congress and provide greater access and flexibility in financing even more projects. APWA members share the desire to address challenges our nation faces in a responsible and efficient way that ensures accountability to taxpayers while preserving affordability.

We believe this bill will be beneficial for the public servants who work tirelessly to maintain our nation's vast infrastructure systems and in turn the communities they serve. If you have any questions regarding our support or other concerns relating to public works, please do not hesitate to reach out to APWA Government Affairs Manager Ryan McManus at rmcmanus@apwa.org or 202-218-6727. APWA appreciates your work on this legislation and hopes for its swift passage and enactment.

Sincerely,

Dominick A. Longobardi
APWA President

Scott D. Grayson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT
Dominick A. Longobardi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE