

December 6, 2024

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

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Carper and Graves and Ranking Members Capito and Larsen:

The Portland Cement Association (PCA), which represents the majority of America's cement manufacturers, applauds the bipartisan agreement on the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 (S. 4367). Passage of WRDA is a priority for PCA members and we support swift passage of the legislation.

Cement, the primary ingredient in concrete, is critical to building a range of different Corps projects, from locks and dams to flood control and storm risk reduction. For every billion dollars spent on water infrastructure construction, approximately 211,000 metric tons of cement will be consumed.

Additionally, our nation's waterways play a critical role in the movement of cement from manufacturing plants to market. Annually, 35 percent of cement shipped in the United States from manufacturing plants to terminals is by barge, demonstrating these systems are vital for American commerce.

The passage of WRDA is essential to continuing the two-year cycle of passing legislation to authorize new studies and construction of Corps projects. We applaud the authorization of over 200 feasibility studies and 21 construction projects, that address the water infrastructure needs across the country from hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, flood risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration.

Additionally, we applaud the inclusion of the Fiscally Responsible Highway Funding Act to address the growing challenge of August Redistribution, which has grown to unprecedented levels over the past few years. By reassigning \$1.8 billion of existing and unused future TIFIA contract authority to formula dollars under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, much-needed contract authority will be provided to states to strategically program their annual obligation limitation, enabling important transportation projects to move forward in state and communities across the country.

Again, thank you for your continued leadership in advancing critical water infrastructure legislation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [soneill@cement.org](mailto:soneill@cement.org).

Sincerely,



Sean O'Neill  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association