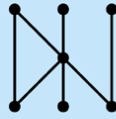


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK



May 16, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall, II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: WIN's Strong Support for the WRRDA Conference Report

Dear Chairman Boxer, Chairman Shuster, Senator Vitter and Representative Rahall,

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation's leading construction, engineering, municipal, conservation, public works, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports the WRRDA Conference Report and urges the prompt passage of this landmark legislation. Our nation is facing a clean water infrastructure funding crisis – EPA, WIN and CBO have projected shortfalls in funding for rural and urban wastewater treatment projects to be in excess of \$500 B over the next two decades. WIN believes that Title V - "Water Infrastructure Finance" - of WRRDA, provides the most significant improvements to the funding and financing of critical clean water infrastructure projects since 1987 Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

Title V of WRRDA:

- Provides reforms that will assist clean water infrastructure construction in every state and every Congressional District. Specifically, Title V allows longer repayment periods for SRF Loans – 30 years or the life of the project and permits states to provide economically distressed communities the forgiveness of principal on SRF Loans and or the utilization of negative interest loans.

Title V of WRRDA cont.:

- Promotes innovative, cost effective methods to manage stormwater and nonpoint pollution and improve the resilience of critical wastewater infrastructure.
- Provides for the first time a process outside of Congress for assessing the adequacy of the Clean Water SRF allotment formula.
- Expands eligible uses of SRF funding to include critical new challenges facing publicly owned treatment works, including security improvements, energy recovery technologies, and water reuse and conservation measures.
- Provides new financing tools and funding that will assist urban and rural communities in meeting their water infrastructure construction challenges through Subtitle C – Innovative Financing Pilot Projects.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Title of WRRDA makes eminent economic and environmental sense. This legislation will facilitate job creating infrastructure investments in the short term and build infrastructure that will improve our nation's long-term economic competitiveness and the quality of our lakes, rivers and streams.

The Water Infrastructure Network appreciates your thoughtful leadership in advancing critical clean water infrastructure funding and financing measures and strongly supports the timely consideration and enactment of the WRRDA Conference Report.

Sincerely,

The WIN Executive Committee

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), National Association Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (The United), and the Vinyl Institute (VI)