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June 4, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

We are writing to express our support for many of the provisions that have been included in Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018), including reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program and the National Levee Safety Program.

Our nation's water resources systems are crucial to our nation's economy, public safety, and the preservation and enhancement of our environmental resources. Our levees, dams, inland waterways, and ports protect hundreds of communities, support millions of American jobs, and generate trillions of dollars of economic activity. However, many of these infrastructure assets have reached the end of their design life, and the investment gap must be closed if we hope to both repair and modernize our water resources systems to be competitive in the 21st century.

In conclusion, ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of our water resources systems to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources. We are pleased to lend our support for the Water Resources Development Act of 2018, as a way to raise the grades on the nation's water resources infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
2018 ASCE President