

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) commends the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for its bipartisan and bicameral work in crafting the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA)* and offers its support.

AEM serves more than 1,100 members companies in the off-road equipment manufacturing industry across multiple sectors including construction, agriculture, mining, utility, and forestry, equipment manufacturers contribute approximately \$316 billion annually to the U.S. economy while sustaining 2.3 million jobs. AEM members and the economic sectors they support depend on American water infrastructure to transport their goods to local and global markets and play an integral role in the construction and maintenance of U.S. water systems.

As the biennial legislation to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program and other vital water resources, timely passage of WRDA is essential to build and maintain our nation's ports, levees, dams, and inland waterways. States and localities depend on federal funding to plan short-term and long-term WRDA projects. Equipment manufacturers in turn depend on that same funding certainty to respond to demand for products, to expand their facilities, to invest in research and development, and to create more jobs.

We specifically support the provisions in the 2024 WRDA legislation that redistributes unobligated balances under the *Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* program. These provisions will enable state departments of transportation to strategically use formula funding that will immediately translate into real projects that benefit states and communities across the country. The provisions will transfer \$1.8 billion of existing and stagnant TIFIA contract authority to the states through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

We applaud the work of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for their work on this legislative agreement and support expeditious passage in both chambers.



Kip Eideberg
Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Relations
Association of Equipment Manufacturers