



December 6, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on
Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for S. 4367 the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024

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

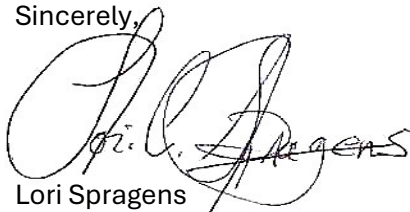
The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) is a national professional association whose membership includes the state dam safety programs in addition to the territory of Puerto Rico—and over 3,000 other dam safety professionals and stakeholders from across the country. The association's mission is to improve the condition and safety of dams and lower the risk of dam failures through education, support for state dam safety programs, and fostering a unified dam safety community. ASDSO has played a proactive role in developing standards, best practices, and training programs for effective dam and levee management, fostering safety and mitigation programs at all levels, and promoting the creation of modern, resilient infrastructure.

ASDSO is pleased to support the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA). The biennial passage of WRDA is critical to ensuring that the dams, levees, ports, and inland waterways of the United States remain safe and effective. Section 1132, Improvements to the National Dam Safety Program, of this bipartisan legislation not only continues the program through 2028, but also marks a critical step forward in enhancing dam safety nationwide. It will remove barriers to increased funding allocations of State Assistance Grants ensuring sufficient resources for proactive public safety efforts. By clarifying the responsibilities of dam owners who

receive rehabilitation grants through the program, the legislation promotes accountability and long-term assurances that the dams will be maintained in a safe condition. The dam safety community applauds the elimination of non-federal cost-sharing requirements for underserved communities, reflecting a commitment to fair and effective safety standards. These measures strengthen our collective ability to manage and maintain dams, safeguarding communities from potential risks and ensuring resilient infrastructure. The inclusion of low-head dams in the National Inventory of Dams enhances its accuracy and scope. By clarifying floodplain management plan requirements for High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program projects, it adds common-sense directives to those applying. These improvements will better help states monitor the condition of dams and dam owners to make needed repairs to high hazard potential dams before a catastrophic dam failure threatens the lives of those in downstream communities.

ASDSO commends Congress for its leadership and action in advancing dam safety. This reauthorization and its improvements are vital steps in ensuring the safety and resilience of our nation's infrastructure. We look forward to the continued partnership between federal and state agencies to enhance dam safety and protect communities across the country. Thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Spragens", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Lori Spragens
Executive Director
Association of State Dam Safety Officials
239 S. Limestone
Lexington, KY 40508