

December 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515

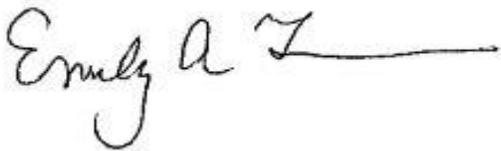
Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) sincerely thanks you for prioritizing passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 and keeping this critical infrastructure legislation on its biennial schedule. Passage of this legislation prioritizes the investment needs of our water resources infrastructure systems – levees, dams, inland waterways, and ports – all of which protect public safety and health, ensures a strong economy, preserves and enhances our environmental resources, and builds a modern, efficient network of infrastructure that can compete on a global stage.

In particular, we thank you for inclusion of provisions that amend the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) cost-share; continue to unlock the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF); make technical changes to the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program; and encourage resilience, innovation, and the utilization of nature-based infrastructure systems. These provisions will help close the nation's water resources investment gaps and raise the nation's "D+" infrastructure grade.

In conclusion, these infrastructure systems protect hundreds of communities from devastating flooding, support millions of American jobs, and generate trillions of dollars of economic activity. ASCE thanks the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for their efforts in drafting the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and thanks Congress for prioritizing passage of the bill this week. We look forward to the signing of this legislation into law before the end of 2020 and to working with you to ensure its full implementation.

Sincerely,



Emily Feenstra
Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives

cc: Senate Committee on Environment & Public Transportation Chairman John Barrasso and Ranking Member Tom Carper; House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves