



October 31, 2016

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

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

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Gibbs and Ranking Member Napolitano:

We write to you as a diverse coalition from the water, local government, and infrastructure sectors to urge you to reconcile and pass final Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation this year that advances clean and safe water and authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) activities. Specifically, we request that you include Title VII, *Safe*

Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure, as part of WRDA because it contains critically important measures to help communities meet their safe and clean water obligations.

We are very pleased that the House took a significant step toward maintaining regular order and a two-year WRDA schedule when it passed H.R. 5303 in September on a remarkable 399-25 vote. Similarly, the Senate passed its WRDA bill, S. 2848, with overwhelming bipartisan support. The strong votes by both chambers demonstrate that federal action to improve our nation's water infrastructure continues to be an issue that can garner broad bipartisan consensus.

As you know, the Senate's WRDA package, which passed 95-3, is a lengthier bill. It incorporates several additional Titles, including Title VII, which contains reforms and investments to help advance clean and safe water around the country. Some of these provisions—aid for communities facing drinking water emergencies and authorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—were included in the House's WRDA package. Other provisions contained in Title VII include common-sense reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to address ratepayer affordability challenges, provisions to enable communities to consider more innovative approaches in addressing clean water needs, and authorizations for investments to support clean and safe water infrastructure.

Combined with USACE authorizations for flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration, the Title VII provisions would help WRDA address the major challenges facing our nation's water resources infrastructure in communities across the country. Passing a WRDA bill will assist communities in meeting their clean and safe water obligations, protect public health, and put people to work strengthening our country and economy.

We applaud and appreciate your successes to date in advancing WRDA legislation in the 114th Congress and urge you to help reconcile and enact a final 2016 WRDA package that includes the Senate's Title VII provisions by the end of this year.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Counties
National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Water Companies
National League of Cities
National Rural Water Association
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Water Environment Federation
WateReuse Association

cc: House Member Offices, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee