



May 8, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Senate Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Senate Environment & Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Barrasso and Inhofe and Ranking Members Carper and Cardin,

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, and counties, we applaud the bipartisan efforts of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for introducing America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This bill is a positive step to ensure Congress continues the two-year authorization cycle for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and we urge Congress to enact a bill by the end of the year.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) projects authorized in WRDA drive investment in navigation, flood protection and ecosystem restoration in communities. Local governments own and manage much of this infrastructure, including ports and harbors, inland waterways, levees, and dams that protect public health and safety and our natural resources. WRDA is critical to helping our communities build, maintain, and improve this critical infrastructure, while growing our national and local economies.

Beyond these traditional Army Corps projects, we would thank the committee for including provisions that will help communities improve our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and improve stormwater management. Provisions such as codification of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Planning framework will help local governments and water utilities meet their Clean Water Act requirements in a more holistic manner. Additionally, we thank the committee for their continued commitment for water and wastewater financing through the state revolving fund program and reauthorization of the Army Corps Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. Furthermore, provisions to provide workforce training and development in the water sector will ensure that our communities have a skilled workforce to meet their needs. Finally, provisions strengthening the intergovernmental collaboration process between the Army Corps and its state and local government partners will improve transparency and efficiency.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the safety and modernization of our nation's water infrastructure needs remain a top national priority. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us: Judy Sheahan (USCM) at 202-861-6775 or jsheahan@usmayors.org; Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at 202-626-3101 or Berndt@nlc.org; Julie Ufner (NACo) at 202-942-4269 or jufner@naco.org.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee