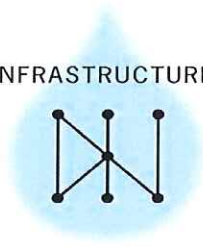


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK



June 13, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-203
Capitol Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: WIN's Strong Support for WRDA 2016 – Senate Consideration Requested

Dear Senate Majority Leader,

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation's leading construction, engineering, municipal, conservation, public works, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (S. 2848) and requests your thoughtful engagement to bring this critical infrastructure legislation to the Senate Floor before the July 4th Recess. The United States is facing a water infrastructure funding crisis as documented in recent reports by CBO, EPA and WIN and underscored by the water infrastructure failure in Flint, MI. The bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2016 represents a unique opportunity to make significant improvements to rural and urban water infrastructure while simultaneously reducing the regulatory burdens on thousands of struggling communities.

The Clean Water Act was last fully reauthorized in 1987 and the Safe Drinking Water Act was last reauthorized in 1996. Title VII of WRDA – "Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure" provides funding, financing and regulatory improvements that have literally been decades in the making. We must seize the unique opportunity presented in WRDA 2016 to make long overdue improvements to our nation's most important infrastructure.

Title VII of WRDA 2016:

- Provides communities with new opportunities to significantly reduce regulatory burdens and save billions of dollars through the use of Integrated Plans – Sec. 7210.
- Provides new assistance for small and disadvantaged communities struggling to meet Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates – Sec. 7106
- Improves the existing Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) to significantly expand opportunities for community participation – Sec. 7302

Title VII of WRDA 2016:

- Includes the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a top priority for Senators from IL, NY, OH, PA, and WI – Subtitle F, Part I
- Promotes the funding and use of innovative technologies to improve water quality and quantity – Sec. 7304, Sec. 7308 and Sec. 7309
- Provides a drinking water disaster relief program that is timely, thoughtful and paid for in a manner that has earned broad bipartisan support – Subtitle D.
- Includes provisions to reduce the cost of rural drinking water – Sec. 7113
- Provides critical resources to assess and remove lead drinking water infrastructure in communities of all sizes and schools – Sec. 7107 and Sec. 7110
- Establishes innovative financing for future water infrastructure projects – Sec. 7303
- Reauthorizes critical drought mitigation programs – Sec. 7306

Water and wastewater treatment improvements started in the early 20th Century are among the most significant public health measures our nation has undertaken. Cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis have been nearly eliminated in the United States, a fact that stands in stark contrast to the impact of waterborne pathogens globally. The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 enjoys broad bipartisan support in the Senate and ensures that the tremendous water quality improvements of the 20th Century are maintained in the 21st Century. .

The Water Infrastructure Network appreciates your thoughtful leadership and looks forward to working with you to secure timely consideration of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 on the Senate Floor and enactment of this landmark legislation before the August Recess.

Sincerely,

The WIN Executive Committee

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Associated General Contractors of America (AGCA), International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), National Association Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (The United), and the Vinyl Institute (VI)