

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support Efforts to Increase Water Resources Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Bill

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the below mentioned groups, we urge you to support efforts to increase investment in water resources infrastructure in any forthcoming legislation that would help create jobs. Our nation faces challenging economic times, and we reiterate the call for significant investment in our nation's infrastructure as a means of providing an immediate and lasting impact on our economy.

As this process moves forward, we understand that you will be faced with many difficult decisions. Our nation's infrastructure needs are large: \$2.2 trillion needed to improve the nation's infrastructure over the next five years. Included in that total are billions of dollars in critical infrastructure projects that would be administered by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. These agencies have construction and operations and maintenance backlogs for which additional funding would create immediate construction employment opportunities. Given our nation's unemployment crisis, this is an area that is ripe for job creation, in the construction area the unemployment rate is hovering at 20%. It is widely estimated that every additional \$1 billion of investment in nonresidential construction supports or creates 28,500 jobs.

There are several other important benefits to stimulus funds for water resources projects identified by the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. **We urge you to include at least \$4.3 billion for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and at least \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, with \$200 million of that set aside for water recycling.** Such funding would help:

- Substantially reduce the backlog of critical maintenance and repairs at hundreds of multiple purpose flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply, irrigation and navigation projects;
- Repair several high risk dam safety projects;
- Rehabilitate and upgrade hydropower plants;
- Recapitalize the oldest and most at-risk projects on our inland waterways system;
- Fully dredge to authorized depth the nation's highest use, deep draft, commercial ports;
- Fully dredge our inland waterways to authorized depth and width; and
- Repair and upgrade critical coastal protection projects that serve as defense to key population centers.

Investment in this sector will greatly expedite the construction of critical environmental projects, completing projects sooner, returning critical ecosystems to a more natural state. Projects producing beneficial impacts on more than 1 million acres could be expedited. Of these outputs, approximately 90 percent are nationally significant and would contribute greatly to long-term environmental sustainability.

We urge you to continue to support all efforts to increase infrastructure investment in the jobs bill. The undersigned groups stands ready to provide whatever assistance we can to help you in your efforts to achieve swift passage of the jobs bill.

Please contact Brian Pallasch at 202-789-7850 or bpallasch@asce.org or Marco Giamberardino at 703-837-5325 or giamberm@agc.org if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Water Resources Coalition
National Waterways Conference
American Assoc. of State Highway & Transportation Officials- Standing Comm. On Water Trans.
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Public Works Association
American Shore & Beach Preservation Assn
American Society of Civil Engineers
Arkansas Red River Commission
Arkansas Waterways Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of California Water Agencies
Coast Builders Coalition
Columbiana County Port Authority
COLUSA Elevator Company
Dredging Contractors of America
Everglades Trust
Garick, LLC
Harris County Flood Control District
Interstate Council on Water Policy
James Marine, Inc.
Johnston's Port 33
Kaskaskia Regional Port District
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
National Stone Sand and Gravel Association
National Waterways Conference
National Water Resources Association
Natures Way Marine, LLC
Operating Engineers Local 513
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Pemiscot County (MO) Port Authority
Red River Valley Association
Rosedale-Bolivar County Port Authority
Stearns & Wheler, GHD
Tennessee River Valley Association
Upper Monongahela River Association
Upper Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri Rivers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Port Authority
Watershed Resource Sciences Program- Marshall U. College of Science
Waterways Council, Inc
White River Coalition