



June 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Water Resources Development Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Collins, and Ranking Member Wilson,

On behalf of the National Waterways Conference (NWC), I am writing to express our strong support for the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 and our appreciation for the Committee's continued commitment to advancing WRDA on a biennial basis. WRDA is fundamental to the federal-non-federal partnership that supports navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, hydropower, recreation, and other critical water resources infrastructure needs across the country. Maintaining a predictable WRDA schedule is essential for the communities and non-federal sponsors responsible for planning, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining these projects.

Established in 1960, NWC is the only national organization dedicated to advocating for policies and laws that recognize the vital importance of America's water resources infrastructure. Our membership spans the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders: port authorities, flood

control associations, levee boards, water supply districts, waterways shippers and carriers, hydropower producers, dredging contractors, engineering consultants, agriculture, and state

and local governments. We proudly represent all of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works business lines. Many of our members are non-federal sponsors of Corps Civil Works projects, bearing significant financial responsibility for construction and long-term operation and maintenance. They work closely and collaboratively with their federal partners every day to ensure these investments deliver national and regional benefits.

NWC was honored to be included in the Committee's December 2025 stakeholders hearing to help shape this legislation. Our testimony highlighted a range of implementation challenges facing non-federal sponsors, with particular emphasis on the need for greater coordination and consultation between USACE and non-federal sponsors. Sponsors depend on clear, timely communication from the Corps to manage local obligations, plan capital budgets, and meet their contractual and legal commitments. When that communication is delayed or restricted, the consequences fall directly on the communities responsible for long-term project delivery.

We are encouraged that the draft bill reflects attention to these concerns and appreciate the Committee and Subcommittee's continued work to strengthen the federal-non-federal partnership. NWC looks forward to working constructively with the Committee and Subcommittee as the legislative process continues, including any technical, implementation, or NWC member-specific issues that may arise.

We appreciate the leadership and dedication of the Committee and Subcommittee members and staff in advancing this legislation and keeping it on a biennial basis. NWC remains committed to constructive engagement throughout the WRDA 2026 process. If you have questions or would like to discuss our members' perspectives further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 703.224.8007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie A. Ufner".

Julie Ufner

President and CEO

National Waterways Conference