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June 5, 2018

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

AGC KEY VOTE: VOTE "YES" ON H.R. 8, "WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018"

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 8 the "Water Resources Development Act of 2018" (WRDA). **AGC will record your vote as a "KEY VOTE" for the education of our more than 27,000 commercial construction firm members**, as WRDA authorizes needed water infrastructure improvement funds.

This bill would authorize funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works projects, including navigation (dredging, locks), flood control (levees), hydropower (dams), recreation (parks), and water supply. Water resource infrastructure is critical to the economy and yield high returns on investment. Harbors maintained by USACE handle 95 percent of America's import and export trade, while the inland waterways system moves freight at half the cost of rail and one-tenth the cost of truck transportation. Spending just above \$5 billion a year on this program generates an estimated net benefit of \$87.1 billion in economic development, a 16-to-1 return, and \$27.3 billion in revenue to the U.S. Treasury, a 5-to-1 return. Critically, USACE projects prevent an estimated \$48.5 billion in economic loss annually from damaging storms and severe weather.

Nevertheless, AGC is disappointed the House Rules Committee removed section 102 of WRDA, which would have allowed the balances in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) to be spent in 2029 without appropriation. This section would have allowed the funding in the HMTF to be used for its intended purpose, addressing the ever-growing backlog of USACE projects, rather than being absorbed into the overall general fund. Additionally, AGC looks forward to working with Congress during conference to strengthen this legislation to include, among other things, the Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act (SRF WIN Act) and the reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Again, AGC urges you to vote "Yes" on H.R. 8 and will record the vote as a key vote of the education of its membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. O'Neill", is positioned above the printed name.

Sean O'Neill
Vice President, Congressional Relations & Infrastructure Advancement
Associated General Contractors of America