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July 14, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Markup of H.R. 7575, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2020*

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) – the leading association in the construction industry representing more than 27,000 firms, including America’s leading general contractors and specialty-contracting firms – thank you for your bipartisan leadership in developing H.R. 7575, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2020*.

H.R. 7575 is an essential step forward as Congress works to continue the biennial process of passing legislation that invests in our nation’s water resources infrastructure. The predictability of the biennial passage of water resources development acts cannot be understated and is critical for all stakeholders involved in the planning and execution of water resources projects. Through these investments, H.R. 7575 will create jobs, improve the quality of life for all Americans, protect our communities, facilitate waterborne commerce, restore environmentally sensitive areas of the country, and help grow our economy.

AGC appreciates that the bill will help ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program is appropriately responsive to the water resources needs identified by local communities. Specifically, the bill authorizes 34 pending Corps Chief’s Reports, which will facilitate important water resources projects across the country, authorizes dozens of new feasibility studies, and expedites the completion of many existing feasibility studies. In addition, AGC supports the provisions of H.R. 7575 that: ensure funds from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund go towards their intended uses; extend a pilot program that allows non-federal interests to carry out feasibility studies and projects; and modify the cost share of projects funded by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund; among others.

As the Committee considers the bill at markup, AGC respectfully urges you to avoid adopting any controversial amendments that could jeopardize the bipartisan support for this measure. Again, AGC applauds your bipartisan efforts and looks forward to working with you as the legislative process continues.

Sincerely,

James V. Christianson
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: All Members of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure