

## AGC Priorities for the 2018 Water Resources Development Act

As the House-Senate begin the reauthorization of “The Water Resources Development Act” (WRDA), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) urges Congress to include the below priorities and pass a bill that provides critical funding for our nation’s water resources infrastructure. These types of investments enjoy broad bipartisan support and ensure our nation’s ability to engage in the robust economic activity that sustains and supports Americans working in all sectors of the U.S. economy.

### 2018 WRDA should include:

- **Incentivize Project Completion** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (Corps) project staff salaries are currently paid through project funds. As a result, there is little incentive for these Corps employees to deliver a project on time and on budget, let alone underbudget and ahead of schedule. Congress must separate project funds from Corps salaries and provide incentives for Corps staff to meet and exceed project delivery benchmarks.
- **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund** – Require the full annual use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues to go towards authorized and intended uses.
- **Inland Waterway Trust Fund** – Require full use of the Inland Waterway Trust Fund go towards authorized uses and not into the General Fund. Further, each year 10 percent of the net hydropower revenues generated at Corps dam projects should be deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to help pay for capital improvements of those dam projects.
- **Mississippi River and Tributary** – Provide supplemental funding for Repair and Restoration of the Mississippi River and Tributary due to damages incurred by the floods of 2011, 2015, and 2016. Additionally, Congress must establish a minimum annual appropriation for MR&T project operation and maintenance.
- **Stafford Act (FEMA)** – Eliminate the deferred maintenance provision for waterway projects. Allow for the federal reimbursement of destroyed waterways projects so long as the federal sponsor agrees.
- **Public Private Partnerships** – Increase flexibility, funding and opportunities for Public Private Partnerships on waterway and water resources projects.
- **Multi-Year Appropriations** – Allow the Corps’ Civil Works Program to receive five-year appropriation funds instead of the current yearly appropriations.
- **Regulatory Streamlining** – Congress should require federal agencies to follow a one federal decision process so there is just one NEPA review for a project that ends with a single record of decision issued by the lead agency. In addition, Congress should require a nationwide merger of the NEPA and Clean Water Act Section 404 permanent processes.