



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

September 14, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairwoman
Environment and Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act 2007

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), we are writing to express our strong support for prompt passage of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

ACEC is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing 5,700 independent engineering companies engaged in the development of America's infrastructure. Our members work closely with a variety of federal, state and local officials and agencies charged with formulating and implementing water resources projects.

This bill authorizes critical flood control, storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration projects that help protect America's communities from the destruction caused by severe weather and flooding. WRDA is also needed to support our nation's vital waterways and ports – key components of our national transportation system and our economy. Over 50 percent of our locks and dams have aged beyond their life cycle and are crumbling. We must continue to modernize these facilities if we are to be competitive in international markets.

For more than five years, the Congress has debated the direction of the Corps' water resources program with respect to project planning, peer review, mitigation and accountability. We believe that H.R. 1495 addresses these issues in a balanced manner that provides a solid foundation for proper management of water resources for current and future generations.

Engineering companies throughout the nation play an essential role in the development, maintenance and operation of our nation's water resource facilities as partners to the federal government. The success of this partnership is predicated on a regular WRDA cycle so that we can efficiently plan, allocate and invest in resources to implement projects.

We have learned from hurricanes and other natural disasters that we either maintain and improve our aging flood control and water resources infrastructure or risk very serious consequences. Our nation simply cannot afford more delay.

The conference report for WRDA 2007 includes important reforms and will ensure that projects critical to our nation's economy and environmental protection are delayed no further. It is a pragmatic bill that has overwhelming support in the Senate, and we urge your immediate attention to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Diane Shea, our Director of Environment and Energy Programs at dshea@acec.org or (202)6824354.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Raymond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Raymond
President