

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2014

Senator Barbara Boxer  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
& Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferees:

We are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of contingency language in the Water Resources Development Act conference report to authorize Army Corps of Engineers projects that receive a final Chiefs report up to one year after enactment of the bill.

Under the bill's current arbitrary deadline, critical Corps of Engineers projects in Florida, Texas, California, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Oregon, Missouri, Maine, South Carolina and possibly other states will have to wait for years before being able to complete their projects. The previous two Water Resources Development Acts each took 7 years to reauthorize, delaying important environmental restoration projects and slowing preparation for larger Post-Panamax ships. Compounding the problem, the sequester cuts and recent government shutdown has slowed the Army Corps of Engineers even further. These states simply cannot afford to wait for these critical infrastructure improvements.

The process for receiving a Chiefs Report for a project is long and arduous, and includes rigorous studies and cost-benefit analysis. The project must be economically and environmentally justified, and it must provide an overall benefit to the country. The only difference between these projects and the ones currently authorized in the bill is the arbitrary deadline.

Authorizing these additional projects will generate billions of dollars in economic activity, create hundreds of thousands of well paying jobs, and benefit the nation's economy as a whole.

The inclusion of these projects does not change the current bill in any way, and can be paid for in the same way as the projects currently authorized in the bill, through the de-authorization of obsolete projects.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

  
Member of Congress

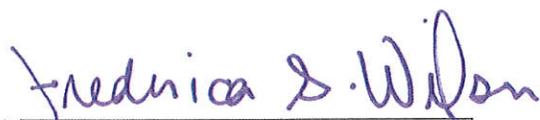
  
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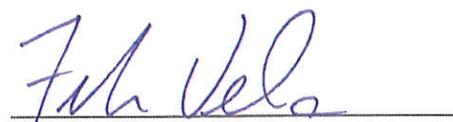
  
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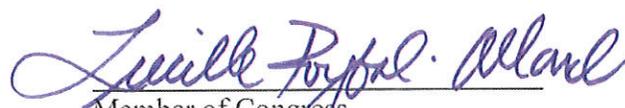
  
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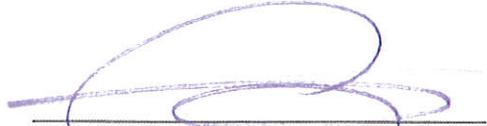
  
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Alan Louenthal

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Gudy Chu

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Member of Congress

M. Jamaide

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Member of Congress

Hopie Waters

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Member of Congress

Bill Roy

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Member of Congress

Alan Brayson

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Member of Congress

Linda J. Sanchez

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Member of Congress

Brad Green

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Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN) ▪ The Honorable Frank LoBiondo (NJ) ▪ The Honorable Sam Graves (MO) ▪ The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito (WV) ▪ The Honorable Candice Miller (MI) ▪ The Honorable Duncan Hunter (CA) ▪ The Honorable Larry Bucshon (IN) ▪ The Honorable Bob Gibbs (OH) ▪ The Honorable Richard Hanna (NY) ▪ The Honorable Daniel Webster (FL) ▪ The Honorable Tom Rice (SC) ▪ The Honorable Markwayne Mullin (OK) ▪ The Honorable Rodney Davis (IL) ▪ The Honorable Doc Hastings (WA) ▪ The Honorable Rob Bishop (UT) ▪ The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II (WV) ▪ The Honorable Peter DeFazio (OR) ▪ The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) ▪ The Honorable Tim Bishop (NY) ▪ The Honorable Donna Edwards (MD) ▪ The Honorable John Garamendi (CA) ▪ The Honorable Janice Hahn (CA) ▪ The Honorable Rick Nolan (MN) ▪ The Honorable Lois Frankel (FL) ▪ The Honorable Cheri Bustos (IL) ▪ The Honorable Grace Napolitano (CA) ▪ The Honorable Barbara Boxer (CA) ▪ The Honorable Max Baucus (MT) ▪ The Honorable Tom Carper (DE) ▪ The Honorable Ben Cardin (MD) ▪ The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) ▪ The Honorable James Inhofe (OK) ▪ The Honorable The Honorable John Barrasso (WY)