



July 16, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
456 Dirksen Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Support for Permanent Extension of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cost-Recovery Authority for Expedited Permit Processing in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

As national industry and labor associations representing the electric, natural gas, and rail transportation infrastructure sectors, we support language in the Floor Managers' Substitute Amendment to H.R. 8, the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, providing for permanent reauthorization of authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to enter into cost recovery agreements with electric companies, natural gas companies, and railroads for the review of permit applications. We urge its prompt consideration in the Senate.

Permanent extension of such authority for the Corps in Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), currently scheduled to sunset in 2024, would increase the resources available to the Corps for permit reviews, allow the Corps to be more transparent and timely in their decision-making, and provide greater regulatory certainty needed to facilitate large, long-term infrastructure investments. Permanent cost recovery authority for the Corps also would be consistent with similar, proven authority already held by the Corps for non-federal public entities and by other federal agencies. For our members, a timely and predictable process for permit reviews is critically important to the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure necessary to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, natural gas, and rail service to American consumers and businesses.

We thank you for your leadership and hard work to achieve bipartisan water resources legislation in the Senate, and we appreciate the inclusion of language in the Floor Managers' Substitute Amendment providing for a permanent extension of the Corps' cost recovery authority. We encourage all Senators to support moving forward on the bill with the Substitute Amendment.

American Gas Association

Association of American Railroads

Edison Electric Institute

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers

International Union of Operating Engineers

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America

Laborers' International Union of North America

National Electrical Contractors Association

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

North America's Building Trades Unions

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America