

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) urges you to invest in America's infrastructure by scheduling a vote on S. 3021, the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, or the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018. Our nation's water resources systems are crucial to our nation's economy, public safety, and the preservation and enhancement of our environmental resources. Our levees, dams, inland waterways, and ports protect hundreds of communities, support millions of American jobs, and generate trillions of dollars of economic activity. However, many of these infrastructure assets have reached the end of their design life, and the investment gap must be closed if we hope to both repair and modernize our water resources systems to be competitive in the 21st century.

We are pleased with many of the provisions that have been included in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, including reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program and the National Levee Safety Program, programs that prevent dam failure and mitigate flooding. Our nation's 90,580 dams and over 30,000 miles of levees are critical components of risk reduction and protect communities, critical infrastructure, and trillions of dollars in property. The National Dam Safety program, which is authorized at \$13.9 million a year, provides federal grant assistance to state dam safety agencies for training dam safety engineers, research, and the creation of a National Inventory of Dams. Since its inception, the program has helped inventory nearly 90,000 dams across the country, assessing their condition and providing training and tools to state dam safety programs. Similarly, the Levee Safety Program, which was authorized in the Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 at \$79 million a year, promotes consistent safety standards, creates levee safety guidelines, and provides funding assistance to states for establishing participating levee safety programs.

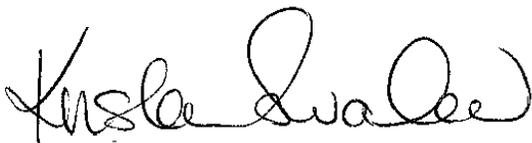
We are also pleased that the bill includes reauthorization of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's successful Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA), as well as reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for three years at

increasing funding levels, eventually rising to \$1.95 billion in FY2021. We also support authorization of the Securing Required Funds for Water Infrastructure Now (SRF WIN) Act, a new program designed to help tackle our nation's water resources infrastructure investment deficit. Despite increased efficiency methods and sustainable practices, there is a growing gap between the capital needed to maintain drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and the actual investments made. By 2025, the disparity between needed and anticipated funding for drinking water and wastewater systems will be \$105 billion.

The SRF WIN Act is an innovative new financing mechanism that blends the most successful parts of the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and WIFIA to create a program that gives State Infrastructure Financing Authorities access to WIFIA loans for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. This program offers a new and efficient tool to leverage limited federal resources and stimulate additional investment in our nation's infrastructure while safeguarding against any cuts to the existing State Revolving Funds and WIFIA program.

ASCE is pleased that Congress is working towards final passage of this critical water resources infrastructure legislation. We believe that our nation must prioritize the investment needs of our water resources and urge passage of S. 3021 to raise the grades on our nation's water resources infrastructure. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Swallow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
2018 ASCE President