

Portland Cement Association  
1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036-4104  
202.408.9494 Fax 202.408.0877  
www.cement.org

October 5, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) supports passage of S. 3021, the America's Water Infrastructure Act, which will address the nation's water infrastructure needs. Passage of this legislation will modernize our water infrastructure to help preserve public health and quality of life for Americans. Also, passage of this legislation continues the two-year cycle of passing water infrastructure authorizations.

The PCA, founded in 1916, is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America's cement manufactures. The PCA's members represent 93 percent of the United States' cement production capacity and have facilities in all 50 states. Cement and concrete product manufacturing, directly and indirectly, employs approximately 600,000 people in our country, and our collective industries contribute over \$100 billion on our economy. Portland cement is the fundamental ingredient in concrete. The Association promotes safety, sustainability, and innovation in all aspects of construction fostering continued improvement in cement manufacturing and distribution and promotes economic growth and sound infrastructure investment.

The America's Water Infrastructure Act builds on previous Water Resources Development Act by authorizing 12 new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects. This will improve our nation's navigational and flood protection infrastructure. Across the country there are approximately 100,000 miles of levees with 25,000 miles of inland and intercostal waterways. These systems are vital for American commerce and public safety. The Corps faces a \$96 billion backlog for 1,000 projects, and many of our levees are over fifty years old. This legislation takes an important step toward addressing this backlog. The PCA is also pleased S. 3021 will improve Corps' processes by increasing transparency and accountability for projects with a local cost-share and allow additional opportunities for regional and local projects of significance to receive appropriations. These changes will help facilitate greater local participation and investment in these essential projects.

The PCA is pleased the America's Water Infrastructure Act continues to highlight the importance of resilient construction techniques. These methods help ensure water infrastructure projects resist the hazards brought on by disasters, reduce the magnitude or duration of a disruptive event to the structure, and have the recoverability to withstand such a potentially disruptive event. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' investment in resilient construction will help save lives and reduce the costs often borne by taxpayers in the wake of a disaster.

Additionally, the PCA supports the investment S. 3021 makes in water infrastructure financing programs. Specifically, by reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for two years and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for five years. These programs provide long-term, low-interest loans to needed water

infrastructure projects and give states and local communities access to the funding that is necessary to tackle large water infrastructure projects. If these programs did not exist, drinking and sewer rates would increase considerably, further hurting the communities that can least afford them. PCA commends your continued support for these programs.

We thank you again for your leadership in investing in our nation's water resources. The quality of life we enjoy is dependent on preserving and adding to the infrastructure investment made by previous generations. The America's Water Infrastructure Act continues these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rachel Derby".

Rachel Derby  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Portland Cement Association