

July 12, 2011

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of the more than 5,000 members of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) to express support for H.R. 2018, the "Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act," sponsored by Representatives John Mica (R-Fla.) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.). This bipartisan legislation would restore an essential balance between states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) necessary for the proper enforcement of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Specifically, H.R. 2018 would benefit the nation's transportation infrastructure by providing needed certainty to the permitting process and removing costly regulatory delays. **ARTBA urges you to vote in support of H.R. 2018 when it is considered by the full House of Representatives.**

Earlier this year, the EPA revoked a valid, properly issued wetlands permit for a mining operation in West Virginia. **Transportation improvements rely on these same types of permits.** With projects already taking between 9 and 19 years to complete on average, transportation planners should not be expected to also shoulder an additional burden of regulatory uncertainty about whether or not a validly issued permit will someday be revoked for no substantive reason. H.R. 2018 would solve this problem by preventing EPA from revoking valid permits unless the state in which the permit is issued also agrees.

H.R. 2018 also sets time limits on agency decisions regarding permits. This is a reform long supported by ARTBA in both the regulatory and legislative arenas. By setting deadlines for agency actions, transportation projects gain much needed efficiency by knowing when permits will be acted upon by federal agencies. In turn, delays for projects are reduced through lessened wait times on permit decisions.

Sensible, bipartisan solutions to environmental problems have been few and far between in recent years. H.R. 2018 represents a chance to restore a proper federal-state balance to the CWA while at the same time providing needed transportation improvements with regulatory certainty. As such, **ARTBA urges the swift passage of H.R. 2018 when it comes to a vote before the full House of Representatives and look forward to working with you to accomplish this important goal.**

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President & CEO