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July 14, 2026

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Environment and Public Works Committee Members:

Providing the resources and policy structure to improve the nation's water resource programs will help enhance goods movement, boost safety and bolster the economy. Accordingly, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association **urges you to support** S. 4949, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026* (WRDA 2026).

WRDA 2026 would authorize \$19.6 billion in new port, harbor, lock and dam projects and offers reforms to numerous other programs designed to strengthen the nation's waterways. These projects would improve navigation in shipping lanes, allowing critical goods and supplies to move through ports and waterways in a timely manner.

The bill would also reauthorize drinking and wastewater programs, including revolving loan funds that provide a critical source of financing for utilities seeking to improve the quality and reliability of water resources.

ARTBA also **urges support for Sen. Pete Ricketts' amendment**, which would allow states to assume permitting responsibilities required under the Clean Water Act. Like the successful NEPA assignment program for transportation infrastructure, this proposal would allow states the option to expedite project reviews by assuming responsibility for certain permits.

We applaud the Environment and Public Works Committee's bipartisan commitment to pursue timely reauthorization of water resources legislation and urge all members of the committee to support WRDA 2026 as part of the comprehensive infrastructure renewal the nation requires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Bauer" clearly legible.

David Bauer  
President and CEO