



February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Boehner, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Water Resources Coalition (WRC) believes the conference committees on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) need to include greatly increased funding levels for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program in the final conference agreement.

The House bill provides \$4.5 billion for these critical water resources programs and the Senate bill provides \$4.6 billion. These sums, while necessary, are far less than needed to ensure that America truly reinvests in public safety and creates more American jobs through improvements to our nation's water resources.

The WRC urges the committees to approve total funding of \$9 billion for the civil works programs under ARRA.

This level of funding is absolutely essential in order to address the construction backlog, promote trade and industry and protect public safety. This investment in domestic waterways infrastructure will pay enormous economic dividends in the future. Equally importantly, it is the type of investment that actually creates jobs, that puts real people to work in America because, unlike so much else in the recovery package, these jobs cannot be outsourced.

We also urge the committees to adopt the Senate funding proposal for the Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure (\$1.4 billion) and for the Natural Resources Conservation Service small watershed dam rehabilitation program (\$65 million).

Sincerely,

Marco A. Giamberardino
Co-Chair

Brian T. Pallasch
Co-Chair

improve, prevent, save
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