



February 5, 2010

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

Re: Support Efforts to Include Water Resources Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Bill

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the Water Resources Coalition, we urge you to support efforts to include investment in water resources infrastructure in any forthcoming legislation that would help create jobs. Our nation faces challenging economic times, and we reiterate the call for significant investment in our nation's infrastructure as a means of providing an immediate and lasting impact on our economy.

As this process moves forward, we understand that you will be faced with many difficult decisions. Our nation's infrastructure needs are large: \$2.2 trillion is needed to improve the nation's infrastructure over the next five years. Included in that total are billions of dollars in critical infrastructure projects that would be administered by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. These agencies have construction and operations and maintenance backlogs for which additional funding would create immediate construction employment opportunities. Given our nation's unemployment crisis, this is an area that is ripe for job creation, in the construction area the unemployment rate is hovering at 20%.

There are several other important benefits to stimulus funds for water resources projects identified by the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. **We urge you to include at least \$4.3 billion for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and at least \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, with \$200 million of that set aside for water recycling.** Such funding would:

- Substantially reduce the backlog of critical maintenance and repairs at hundreds of multiple purpose flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply, irrigation and navigation projects;
- Repair several high risk dam safety projects;

- Rehabilitate and upgrade hydropower plants;
- Recapitalize the oldest and most at-risk projects on our inland waterways system;
- Fully dredge to authorized depth the nation's highest use, deep draft, commercial ports;
- Fully dredge our inland waterways to authorized depth and width; and
- Repair and upgrade critical coastal protection projects that serve as defense to key population centers.

Investment in this sector will greatly expedite the construction of critical environmental projects, completing projects sooner, returning critical ecosystems to a more natural state. Projects producing beneficial impacts on more than 1 million acres could be expedited. Of these outputs, approximately 90 percent are nationally significant and would contribute greatly to long-term environmental sustainability.

We urge you to continue to support all efforts to increase infrastructure investment in the jobs bill. The undersigned groups stands ready to provide whatever assistance we can to help you in your efforts to achieve swift passage of the jobs bill.

Sincerely,

American Society of Civil Engineers
 Associated General Contractors
 American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
 Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway Association
 Oregon Water Resources Congress
 Marlowe & Company
 Florida Inland Navigation District
 Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Assoc.
 Dredging Contractors of America
 American Public Works Association
 National Stone Sand and Gravel Association
 Association of CA Water Agencies
 The Everglades Trust
 Coast Builders Association
 American Council of Engineering Companies
 Texas Water Conservation Association
 County of Orange (CA) - Public Works
 Associated Equipment Distributors
 Missouri Corn Growers Association