



WATER RESOURCES COALITION

November 2, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Water resources projects foster economic development, facilitate trade and commerce, rebuild environmentally sensitive areas, aid international competitiveness, stimulate employment, provide water recreation opportunities, enhance agricultural and industrial productivity, and augment our national defense. Accordingly, we urge you to support the override of President Bush's veto of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

With each passing day, the inability of our nation's aging infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing population further threatens our economy and environment. America's water resources system is critical to the nation's well-being. Ports and waterways transport domestic and international cargo. Flood control projects protect lives and prevent property damage. Coastal nourishment projects help to save lives and reduce property damages while providing critical public recreation as well as environmental habitat. In addition, projects for water supply, habitat protection, irrigation, and water-based recreation also provide significant benefits.

The projects authorized in H.R. 1495 reflect today's need for improved flood control, increased navigation capacity, and ecosystem restoration. The damage inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and this summer's flooding in Ohio, Texas, Missouri, and Oklahoma demonstrate real priorities that are addressed in this bill.

Investment in water resources infrastructure prior to disasters actually saves taxpayer money. These projects offer the federal government the best return on its investment. In addition, an estimated \$706 billion in damages have been prevented through flood damage reduction projects - most within the past 25 years - representing a six-to-one return on investment. We must commit to infrastructure investment now to leave behind a legacy of economic security and opportunity for future generations.

Reauthorizing the Water Resources Development Act after seven long years will go a long way toward maintaining our economic competitiveness and national security, by enabling us to reprioritize and wisely invest in a comprehensive program to properly maintain, repair and replace our critical water resources infrastructure.

We urge you to vote to override the veto and enact H.R. 1495.

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