

The Honorable Chairman James Inhofe
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Chairman Bill Shuster
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Ranking Member Barbara Boxer
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
112 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Ranking Member Peter DeFazio
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

June 22, 2016

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Boxer and Ranking Member DeFazio,

As organizations representing conservation, engineering, construction, sportsmen and women, outdoor industry, and floodplain management interests, we are writing to express our unified support for the consideration of natural and nature-based features in the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of water resource development projects. We request that you include language in your respective chambers' Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA), S.2848 and H.R.5303, when considered on the floor that will promote consideration of natural and nature-based features wherever practicable and cost-effective.

Water resource development projects that consider natural and nature-based features, including the use of wetlands, floodplains, coastal dunes, and ocean reefs, alone or in combination with structural infrastructure provide for sustainable and cost effective means to reduce flood and storm damage, improve water quality, and protect vital wildlife habitats.

For example, The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the reinsurance company Swiss Re undertook an analysis of the costs and benefits of natural and built solutions using industry-based modeling approaches. The results of the analysis applied along the Gulf of Mexico coast can be searched using a [spatially explicit tool](#) and demonstrates where including nature-based defenses can reduce risk and avert damages in a cost effective manner for millions of residents in that region.

Moving forward, natural and nature-based features will facilitate broad support for the delivery of Army Corps of Engineers projects and promote a comprehensive and inclusive approach to water resource management. These types of strategies are not only fiscally responsible; they will increase our communities' safety and enhance our environment.

We look forward to working with the committee on these concepts and to seize the opportunity to further natural and nature-based features in the final WRDA.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Shore and Beach Preservation Society
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Sportfishing Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of State Floodplain Managers
B.A.S.S.
CH2M
Izaak Walton League of America
National Asphalt Pavement Association
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited