



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

September 19, 2016

Michael Gronstal
*Senate Majority Leader
Iowa
President, NCSL*

Raúl E. Burciaga
*Director
Legislative Council Service
New Mexico
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
United States Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
United States Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Water Resources Development Act

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

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories and commonwealths urges you to move forward toward passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA). WRDA is critical to protect, maintain and further develop our nation's waterways and ports as well as supporting our nation's drinking water systems.

At NCSL's 2016 Legislative Summit, state legislators overwhelmingly reapproved our Waterways and Ports Policy Directive as well as our Water Policy Directive, both of which require a three-quarters vote of the states in the affirmative to ensure bipartisan support. The Waterways and Ports directive stresses the importance of increased investment in the inland waterways system and full use of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund receipts. Further, our Water Policy directive highlights the need to increase funding for safe drinking water programs to necessary levels that take into account recent developments across the country regarding lead contamination and provide special consideration for financial assistance to those states that have communities and water systems that have limited resources.

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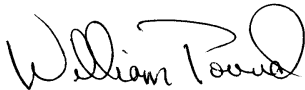
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Sept. 19, 2016

p. 2

We applaud the Senate for its bipartisan bill and urge both chambers to work together expeditiously to ensure the 114th Congress maintains the commitment in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 conference report that “Congress consider a water resources bill no less than once every Congress” and send a final bill to President Obama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

Cc: Chairman James Inhofe, Chairman Bill Shuster, Chairman Fred Upton, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Peter DeFazio and Representative Frank Pallone