



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Bruce W. Starr
*Senator
Oregon
President, NCSL*

Thomas W. Wright
*Chief of Staff to Speaker
Alaska
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510

Re: The Water Resources Reform and Development Act

Dear Chairman Boxer, Senator Vitter, Chairman Shuster and Representative Rahall:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) we would like to thank the conference committee for finalizing the bi-partisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 Conference Report that aims to protect, maintain and further develop our nation's waterways. NCSL recognizes the substantial economic benefits that the U.S. system of waterways and ports provides. We are encouraged with the final WRRDA conference report, particularly Section 2101 which addresses the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) as well as Title V and its effects on water infrastructure financing.

As NCSL believes that Congress should adequately fund deepening projects to modernize our ports and make full use of the HMTF to maintain the nation's harbors, we are pleased to see how Section 2101 ensures that 100 percent of the funds will go to harbor operation and maintenance activities by 2025. Additionally, NCSL is encouraged by the language in Title V of the WRRDA conference report which creates a pilot Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA). NCSL supports the approach that WIFIA funding should be reserved for projects costing \$20 million and

Denver
7700 East First Place
Denver, Colorado 80230
Phone 303.364.7700 Fax 303.364.7800

Washington
444 North Capitol Street, N.W. Suite 515
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone 202.624.5400 Fax 202.737.1069

Website www.ncsl.org
Email info@ncsl.org

above. We also support the safeguards that ensure the WIFIA financing is in addition to and not in place of State Revolving Funds (SRFs).

Again, we applaud the conference committee for finalizing a bi-partisan WRRDA conference report that addresses the current misallocation of receipts within the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and enhances the level of financing for water infrastructure projects, while ensuring the longevity of state revolving funds.

Please contact Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Melanie Condon (melanie.condon@ncsl.org) for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Senator John McCoy, Washington
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Senator Ross Tolleson, Georgia
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Representative Jim Gooch Jr., Kentucky
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Senator John C. Watkins, Virginia
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee

Attached: [NCSL Waterways and Ports Policy Directive](#)
[NCSL Water Infrastructure Financing Policy Resolution](#)