

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

The cement industry commends the introduction and committee passage of H.R. 7575, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, to advance critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects across the country. PCA supports the legislation and wants to share our perspective on provisions in the bill that allow for the greater use of natural and nature-based features in United States Army Corps of Engineers projects.

Our nation's waterways play a critical role in the movement of cement from manufacturing plant to market. Annually, the cement industry ships approximately 35 percent of our products from plants to terminals by barge demonstrating these systems are vital for American commerce. Additionally, water infrastructure construction is a critical market for cement in the United States. For every billion spent on water infrastructure construction approximately 211,000 metric tons of cement will be consumed.

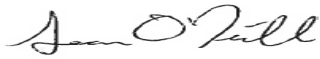
Passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 is important to continuing the two-year cycle of passing legislation to authorize and advance new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects. The cement industry supports the authorization of 35 Corps feasibility studies and construction of all 34 pending projects with final Chief's Reports, ranging from restoration to flood risk management to hurricane and storm risk reduction.

The cement industry supports taking steps to improve the resiliency of the nation's water infrastructure and recognizes the critical role concrete plays in making infrastructure more resilient. Your legislation also recognizes the role natural and nature-based features play in building more resilient infrastructure. In doing so a provision in H.R. 7575 takes steps to ensure feasibility reports for Army Corps projects that contain flood risk management or hurricane and storm damage risk reduction elements include a summary of the "nonstructural feature, or natural feature or natural-based feature" alternatives that were evaluated and if such alternatives are not included in the recommended plan, the Army Corps must provide an explanation of why such alternatives were not included. Frequently, enhancing natural and nature-based features are paired with traditional infrastructure options, including the construction of levees and dams, that are proven to ensure the infrastructure will deter future damage. As part of the feasibility study, the cement industry would ask the summary of the analysis also include an estimate of the long-term costs of associated with both the natural and nature-based features and traditional infrastructure features. Doing

this will help ensure the best and most cost-effective over the long-term natural or nature-based or traditional infrastructure components are used in Corps flood risk and hurricane reduction projects.

Again, thank you for your continued leadership in advancing critical water infrastructure legislation. PCA looks forward to working with you to advance the Water Resources Development Act. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 321-6792 or [soneill@cement.org](mailto:soneill@cement.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "O'Neill" clearly distinguishable.

Sean O'Neill  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs