

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending America's free enterprise system, supports S. 2848, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA)" and urges the Senate to promptly approve this legislation.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 would ensure the viability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works programs including navigation, flood risk management, recreation, and infrastructure and environmental stewardship, would be an important step toward providing critical economic benefits to the nation. This bill would authorize 29 new Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works projects, while creating policy changes to require the Corps to update its reservoir operations, and establish new programs such as grants for innovative water technologies. S. 2848 would also continue to clarify the targets for increased Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) funding, to ensure that collected revenue is being used for its intended purpose.

This measure would continue to build upon the streamlining provisions in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, to allow expedited approval for modifications to existing Corps projects. Additionally, the bill expands the role of local partners in using non-federal interests in implementation and coordination with Corps projects. Finally, critical investment in the country's aging drinking and wastewater infrastructure would continue to grow as a part of this legislation. Completing WRDA this year would continue the commitment to authorize new projects every two years.

**The Chamber urges you to support S. 2848, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.**

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten