



American Road
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Builders Association

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December 7, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

Supporting marine transportation infrastructure will help grow the U.S. economy by fostering the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. S. 1811, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2020* (WRDA 2020), would authorize nearly \$16 billion in port, harbor, lock and dam projects as well as numerous other programs designed to enhance the nation's waterways. The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) **strongly urges you to support passage** of this legislation.

Many of the 46 projects, and eight previously authorized projects receiving additional federal resources, would address coastal restoration to both prepare for and recover from natural disasters. Projects would also improve shipping lanes, allowing critical goods and supplies to move through ports and waterways more efficiently—of significant importance amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

WRDA 2020 also solidifies action taken in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to spend down the nearly \$9 billion balance in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), allowing funds to be used for their intended purpose. Users of the nation's ports and waterways have paid user fees into the HMTF for years that were not invested in a timely manner, preventing improvements to the system they were paying for. WRDA 2020 would permanently change this, allowing for greater investment levels in the short-term and stable investment growth in the long-term.

We applaud congressional leadership for continuing the timely reauthorization of water resources legislation every two years and urge all members of Congress to support WRDA 2020. Improvements to our ports, waterways, locks, dams and coastlines will provide enormous economic and safety benefits to the entire country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Bauer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Bauer
President and CEO