



Thomas M. Conway
International President

December 7, 2020

Via E-mail

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: United Steelworkers supports S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA).

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the members of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), I write to you supporting **S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA)**. This bipartisan legislation will fund over \$8 billion in needed water infrastructure projects, while allowing full utilization of the \$4 billion Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMT).

American workers and American jobs depend on adequately funded and built water infrastructure. The project authorizations, feasibility reports generated, and activities funded by WRDA are vital to maintaining and expanding America's industrial base, through direct port investment and improved development of water related resources. For example, the feasibility study at Georgetown Harbor Project in Georgetown, SC has the potential to start preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project. With over 100 Liberty Steelworkers laid off due to lack of demand and inadequate port infrastructure influencing the ability to reduce costs, the advancement of navigation projects at the port could not come sooner.

The nation benefits when materials and components for this infrastructure are produced domestically. While the clean water and drinking water state revolving loan funds (SRF) are currently subject to Buy America standards, the drinking water SRF is not permanently authorized for domestic preference. As the President-Elect prepares to emphasize domestic job creation and domestic procurement, we will strongly encourage the 117th Congress to support a permanent extension of Buy America provisions.

The USW supports the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and urges you to vote yes on the passage of the bi-partisan bill, as amended in conference.

Sincerely,


Thomas Conway
International President

CC: United States Representatives