



May 23, 2008

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

The Water Resources Coalition supports your efforts for a renewed national commitment to the infrastructure investment needs of this country, particularly in the water resources area. We applaud your leadership and thank you for your service. A number of Coalition members are participating in your ongoing discussions.

We are very interested in your proposal for a Commission on Infrastructure Investment and would like to be a part of that process. The Coalition supported the enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to empower new tools and reforms for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers program. Most importantly, we supported Congress' WRDA 2007 vision setting the nation on a path to better water resource infrastructure planning. We are also actively involved in similar efforts regarding other federal water resource agencies programs. We believe the Commission is a crucial first step toward a greatly needed deliberative and integrated approach to the sustainability of the nation's water resources.

The new paradigm for planning and managing the nation's investments in water resources must have the active participation of all levels of our federal system of government. By using this approach, our colleagues in the European Union are far ahead of us with regard to an integrated deliberative decision process for water resources planning and evaluation.

Effective planning is fundamental for the infrastructure investments that need to be made in this country. Enclosed is written testimony which the Coalition provided to the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee this past month on drought issues in the Southeast. This written statement includes a set of principles for water resource planning that you may find useful as you move forward in your thinking on an infrastructure commission.

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In addition, we have asked one of our members to provide you with the information from a *Commission to Study Capital Budgeting* that engaged in an effort similar to yours ten years ago. We believe that you and your staff will find the information and the notes on the discussions that occurred instructive as you move forward with a strategy to successfully bring about greater infrastructure investment in this country.

The Coalition and its members have a wealth of knowledge and experience that we look forward to sharing with you and your colleagues whose commitment to investing in America's future by investing in its infrastructure we both applaud and actively support.

Sincerely,

American Society of Civil Engineers  
Associated General Contractors  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Public Works Association  
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association  
County of Orange (CA) Public Works  
Dredging Contractors of America  
Florida Inland Navigation District  
Marlowe & Company  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Stone Sand & Gravel Association  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Texas Water Conservation Association  
Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association

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