



June 4, 2008

The Honorable John Linder
U.S. House of Representatives
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Linder:

On behalf of the Water Resources Coalition, we would like to express our support for H.R. 135, the Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2007, as reported out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We believe that it is timely and important to examine the nation's future water needs and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy.

The Water Resources Coalition is a coalition of organizations representing state and local government, engineering and construction, ports, waterways, transportation services and conservation organizations that have an interest in a comprehensive national water resources policy. Our primary focus is on the need to invest more money and resources in our nation's water resources.

It is critical that the nation prepare itself for continued population growth and the concomitant pressures on water supplies that increased demands bring. In addition, weather variations such as extended droughts and climate change are bringing new challenges to planners and policymakers. We think it will be extremely useful for the Commission to analyze existing water assessments to examine how various federal agencies are dealing with future water needs. We also applaud the legislation for requiring the commission to develop a comprehensive water strategy directed at increasing water supplies and improving the availability, reliability and quality of freshwater.

It is clear to us that federal investments in these goals will be key to our nation's continued economic prosperity and environmental improvements. While we are not yet in a crisis, we face chronic problems that will only get worse without planning and aggressive actions. Not only must we preserve and protect our existing water infrastructure, we need to increase spending for replacement and new construction to address expansion of our population.

It is our shared responsibility to future generations to plan for and provide an adequate and dependable supply of clean and safe water. With its broad cross-section of regional and geographical perspectives, the Commission will be

uniquely qualified to suggest options and strategies for our long-term water needs.

We thank you for your leadership on this important legislation, and join you in urging the House to favorably consider HR 135.

Sincerely,



Brian Pallasch
Co-Chairman
American Society of Civil Engineers



Marco Giamberardino
Co-Chairman
Associated General Contractors

CC: The Honorable James Oberstar
The Honorable John Mica