



January 28, 2009

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman
House Transportation &
Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable John Mica
Ranking Member
House Transportation &
Infrastructure Committee

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

On behalf of the Water Resources Coalition, we are writing to urge you to support passage of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As the House debates this bill, the WRC strongly urges your support to increase investment in water resources infrastructure. Our nation faces challenging economic times, and we reiterate the call for significant investment in our nation's infrastructure as a means of providing an immediate and lasting impact to our economy.

As this process moves forward, we understand that you will be faced with many difficult decisions. The amount of investment is large compared to previous federal funding. However, the proposed funding is modest compared to the lists of "shovel-ready" projects compiled by several associations of public officials. They are also far less than the available capacity of the construction and materials industries, especially since the bill would spread investment across many types of structures.

There is an estimated \$2.2 trillion needed to improve the nation's infrastructure over the next five years, and the spending in this bill could easily be increased without exhausting either the capacity of the construction and supplying industries or the nation's need for additional infrastructure.

Again, I urge you to support H.R. 1, and any efforts to increase infrastructure investment in the bill.

Sincerely,

Marco A. Giamberardino
Co-Chair

Brian T. Pallasch
Co-Chair

improve, prevent, save
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