



February 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Wilson:

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) applauds your leadership in holding today's hearing on "America Builds: Clean Water Act Permitting and Project Delivery." WAC represents a large and diverse cross-section of the nation's broad business community, including the construction, transportation, real estate, mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, energy, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety sectors. Our members are vital to building a thriving national economy and are essential to achieving the nation's critical infrastructure, manufacturing, supply chain, transportation, and energy goals.

Our members operate their businesses in compliance with a comprehensive framework of federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. They regularly obtain federal Clean Water Act (CWA) permits, including dredge and fill permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under CWA section 404 and discharge permits from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state permitting authorities under CWA section 402. Many of our members also conduct activities under the Corps' Nationwide Permit program, which provides an important option to expedite projects that have lower environmental impact. We therefore have a significant interest in the Committee's work to address CWA permitting and project delivery challenges and opportunities.

For many of our members, CWA permitting can be a major hurdle in moving essential projects forward efficiently. We appreciate the Committee's work to address these challenges and ensure that essential projects are not hindered by bureaucratic delays or uncertainties, while supporting the CWA's cooperative federalism framework, environmental protection, and the need for a more streamlined, predictable regulatory framework.

We look forward to working with you to identify opportunities for targeted reforms that will help achieve our nation's ambitious national priorities and support the communities that depend on these projects.

Sincerely,

American Exploration & Mining Association
American Farm Bureau Federation

American Road and Transportation Builders Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors of America
Leading Builders of America
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association
National Club Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Realtors
National Mining Association
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
The Fertilizer Institute
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure