

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to ask that you reconsider your staff's recommendation to veto the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA).

The WRDA conference report passed both the House and Senate with very strong support -- nearly 90 percent approving. This bill is the product of nearly seven years of efforts to advance our national water resources policy and priorities. It provides critical and often overdue solutions to numerous challenges facing our nation.

Hurricane Katrina and the Interstate 35 bridge collapse in Minnesota are two recent examples of the dangers in under-investing in our nation's key infrastructure. This bill provides an opportunity to prevent future infrastructure failures and disasters.

We share your concerns regarding the work backlog at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but note that backlogs do not necessarily translate into higher priorities. We must work together through the appropriations process to provide sufficient funding to ensure that we remain proactive in addressing our national water resources infrastructure. The authorization levels in this bill, including extraordinary work related to Hurricane Katrina, reflect an annual average that remains comparable to previous decades.

Additional delays are not in the best interest of the United States. We strongly urge you to sign the WRDA bill into law.

Sincerely,

David Vitter

John Z. Sununu

George V. Voinovich

Fay Bailey Hutchinson

Chita

Susan M. Collins

Elizabeth Dole

Pete Domenici

Tom Harkin

Lyne

Red Stearn

Allen Speer

Phil Martin

James

Wm Alexander

Phil Bond

Jim Doherty

Bob

Jim Anke

Sally Chalker

John Cornyn

Paul Baker

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