



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

November 18, 2016

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Inhofe and Boxer, and Representatives Shuster, DeFazio, Upton, and Pallone:

At a time when America's water infrastructure is in desperate need of massive and sustained investment, the United Steelworkers (USW) is pleased that both the House and Senate have passed versions of a Water Resources Development Act in 2016. The path forward to a final bill that authorizes critical infrastructure projects, ensures investments that will also promote and support American manufacturing jobs, and contains measures to address the problem of lead contamination across the country is clear with your leadership. USW urges both the House and Senate to ensure that the final WRDA bill be completed quickly and retain all of these important measures.

Water systems across the country are at risk of lead contamination as we have seen with the catastrophe in Flint Michigan, and we must ensure that Congress's effort to address this problem be robust, well-funded, and sustained. Millions of American children deserve safe drinking water, and ensuring that is the shared responsibility of all.

While it is not perfect – in particular, USW retains our opposition to financing aid to Flint by gutting the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) program – USW supports the version of Flint aid contained in the Senate-passed WRDA bill (S. 2848). The guaranteed funding in the Senate bill, as well as its use of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and WIFIA as the vehicles to deliver the aid, are determinative factors informing this decision. Flint needs aid immediately, and ensuring that the final bill includes guaranteed funding is crucial. Further, as the federal aid infrastructure programs dedicated to the development of drinking water infrastructure, the

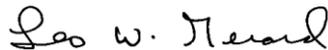
**United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union**

Drinking Water SRF and WIFIA are the programs that have the necessary skill and expertise to ensure that this investment is made the right way.

Beyond the Flint aid package, S. 2848 also includes a Title making program and policy changes to the Drinking Water SRF. USW in particular urges you to ensure that Section 7117 of the Senate bill is included in the final version. This section would codify the already-in-effect American Iron and Steel Preference applied to the Drinking Water SRF. This preference has been a tremendous success that has led to both job and production gains in the American water infrastructure products sector since its enactment in 2014. This is directly attributable to the last WRRDA bill in 2014, in which a similar preference was included for both the Clean Water SRF and the new WIFIA program with broad bipartisan and bicameral agreement. It therefore makes sense to statutorily apply this job creating provision to the Drinking Water SRF.

American's want and deserve the best infrastructure in the world, and it is up to Congress to provide the leadership and resources necessary to deliver those needs. Our country can do more and USW will continue to press forward to ensure we have good jobs, better infrastructure and clean water.. The Water Resources Development Act is a positive step forward in making our shared goal of a strong and prosperous America a reality. We urge you and your committees to make its completion this year a top priority and to ensure that the final version retain these key and critical policies to help American citizens and workers.

Sincerely,



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce