September 20, 2016

U.S. SENATE OVERWHELMING PASSES WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Last Thursday the Senate approved the Water Resources Developments Act of 2016 (WRDA) by a 95 “yes” to 3 “no” floor vote. The measure in total authorizes approximately $13.3 billion for various water/port projects throughout the country.

The Senate WRDA measure, S2848, contains funding for navigation, port, dam, flood control, and ecological restoration projects. Also contained in the legislation is $1.8 billion for storm water construction projects, $1.4 billion grant program for rural drinking water/wastewater projects as well as other significant provisions for clean water and drinking water programs. Also included is $220 million for water infrastructure improvements to States with “emergency drinking water situations” and $70 million to capitalize WIFIA loan projects.

The U.S. House has yet to move the bill for a floor vote, however, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster has indicated that there will be an effort to bring the Committee’s WRDA measure to the floor prior to the Congress’s Fall recess.

Coalition Representatives will urge the House leadership to post the House T & I Committee’s bill for a floor vote. Once passed by the House, Coalition representatives will work with members of both Chambers to advocate for inclusion of Clean Water and Drinking Water funding language to be added to the final legislation during conference negotiations on the bill between the House and Senate.