



April 2014

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)



- Portland Cement Association (PCA)
- American Coal Ash Association (ACAA)
- American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA)
- American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA)
- American Concrete Pumping Association (ACPA)
- American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association (ACPPA)
- American Shotcrete Association (ASA)
- Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI)
- Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA)
- Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI)
- National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA)
- National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA)
- National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
- National Slag Association (NSA)
- Post Tensioning Institute (PTI)
- Slag Cement Association (SCA)



Issue Summary:

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) provides essential oversight and prioritization of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) activities. It ensures taxpayer dollars are being spent responsibly on projects, including flood damage protection, dams, and locks.

Background:

Congress began considering WRDA legislation in 1986, with authorizations typically being enacted every two years. The most recent WRDA was enacted in 2007. WRDA authorizes Corps activities for navigable channels, flood and storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration.

WRDA projects undergo unparalleled economic and environmental review to determine public interest and economic benefits relative to project costs. Projects typically require two separate authorizations, beginning with an investigation. Based on the results of these investigations, projects are authorized for construction subject to appropriations. Over the last two decades, appropriations for projects outlined in WRDA have remained relatively consistent, typically between \$4 and \$5 billion a year.

The Senate passed a WRDA reauthorization bill, S. 601, on May 15, 2013, by a vote of 83-14. The House passed its bill, entitled the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), H.R. 3080, on October 23rd by a vote of 417-3. The Senate and House bills are being considered by legislators in a conference committee. Both bills include critical provisions promoting resilient construction techniques.

Cement and Concrete Industries' Position:

The U.S. cement and concrete industries strongly support a WRDA/WRRDA reauthorization that promotes enhanced efficiencies for navigation and the use of resilient construction techniques and materials. The U.S. cement and concrete industry urge Congress to enact a final bill that retains these goals. Specifically, our industry supports retention of language included in the Senate bill defining resilient construction. Industry also asks that "concrete" be one of the materials referenced in a section on resilient construction.