October 24, 2016

The Honorable Jim Inhofe  The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works  Committee on Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster  The Honorable Pete DeFazio
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

The High-Performance Building Coalition (HPBC) is comprised of more than 200 manufacturers, trade associations, and other stakeholders who support policies and legislation that advance the next generation of buildings. The HPBC is proud to support the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus, chaired by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT).

We are writing to urge your support for enacting a final Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) when Congress returns in November. This important legislation contains critical measures to help communities meet their safe and clean water goals as well as address fundamental parts of our infrastructure.

In addition to authorizing important water infrastructure-related projects, the bipartisan Senate bill incorporates common sense reforms including language addressing the popular WaterSense program (Section 7112, S. 2848). This provision would authorize a voluntary WaterSense program within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help consumers easily identify water-efficient products and services.

The authorization of this program is widely supported by the industry. It is also supported by Congress itself as evidenced by the fact that authorizing language is also included in both the House and Senate versions of the comprehensive energy bill (Section 1023, S.2012; Section 3162, H.R. 8) that is under consideration by the conference committee.

For the last decade, the WaterSense program has been an integral part of our country's paradigm shift in nationwide water consumption, despite not having ever been officially authorized by Congress. This program has saved 1.5 trillion gallons of water and more than $32.6 billion in water and energy bills in the United States. It does so by ensuring that the technologies it approves and labels perform well, and
meet the product’s stated water efficiency claims. Such rigorous review safeguards the market from poorly functioning and inefficient products. Congressional authorization and funding provided by this legislation will provide much needed support for this important program to grow and flourish, which will directly improve the end use efficiency of water use in the United States.

We urge you to enact a final WRDA 2016 package that includes the WaterSense provision highlighted above and provides meaningful assistance to communities in addressing a fundamental part of our nation’s infrastructure as well as achieving their water efficiency goals.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dain Hansen, Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Chair of the High Performance Building Coalition, at dain.hansen@iapmo.org or (202) 445-7514.

Sincerely,

The High Performance Building Coalition
American Institute of Architects
ASHRAE
Copper Development Association
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
International Code Council