



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Ranking Member Larsen:

With Congress gearing up to authorize this year's [Water Resources Development Act](#) (WRDA), I encourage you to champion policies that foster America's construction excellence and promote domestic manufacturing. At [Common Sense America](#), we believe that U.S. national security and economic strength depend on strong infrastructure and WRDA presents a unique, bipartisan opportunity to build world-class water infrastructure.

Projects constructed as a result of robust WRDA investments can provide the American people with stronger, more resilient infrastructure—but only if we use American-made construction materials that last. These projects will benefit infrastructure nationwide, including ports, waterways, water management systems, flood protection structures, and more.

America's water infrastructure is directly tied to the success of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the health of our people. [Twelve thousand miles](#) of commercially active inland, intracoastal, and coastal waterways transport bulk commodities and agricultural goods across the country. [Thousands of miles of levees](#) guard against floods. [More than 92,000 dams](#) help protect infrastructure, generate electricity, and supply drinking water. But we can't successfully build, repair, or modernize any of these essential structures without reliable, trusted, and high-quality American-made cement.

Despite our nation's urgent need for cement, the U.S. experienced a [decline in domestic cement production](#) in 2025 and imported over 20% of the cement consumed that year to meet demand. To carry out essential infrastructure projects, we need a consistent supply of high-quality cement. A [new lock chamber](#) at the Montgomery Locks and Dam facility in Monaca, Pennsylvania, needed about 400,000 cubic yards of concrete. A new [wastewater treatment plant](#) in San Francisco will use more than 6,000 cubic yards of concrete. An expansion of a [water purification plant](#) in Houston required 220,000 cubic yards of structural concrete.

To bring these projects and countless others to fruition, the U.S can't rely on cement of questionable foreign origin to form the backbone of American waterways and water infrastructure. Using imported material also risks missing out on opportunities to create jobs and support local economies by investing in U.S. cement production, which contributes [\\$159 billion in annual economic impact and supports 577,000 American jobs.](#)

We strongly urge Congress to adopt policies in this year's WRDA legislation to incentivize the use of American cement for all water-related infrastructure projects. This includes expanding "Buy America" standards to include cement, enhancing quality assurance certifications for imported materials, and improving import transparency on building materials for construction efforts that receive federal funding.

Renewing investments in our water-related infrastructure as we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary can help support a new era of American excellence. Let's usher in this construction renaissance by building on a strong foundation of U.S.-made cement.

Thank you for considering our letter. We commend your commitment to America's economy and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Crim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Crim
President and Founder
Common Sense America