

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
United States Senate
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, United States House
of Representatives
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, United
States House of Representatives

Subject: Letter of Support for the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024

Dear Chairs Carper and Graves and Ranking Members Capito and Larsen:

On behalf of the nation's state departments of transportation (state DOTs), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation (AASHTO) writes to extend our gratitude and strong support for the bipartisan and bicameral Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024.

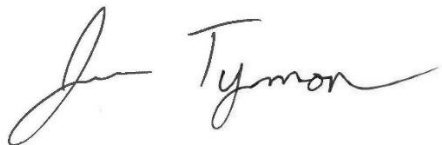
Crucially for state DOTs and their local partners, we appreciate the inclusion of the "Fiscally Responsible Highway Funding Act of 2024" that will transfer \$1.8 billion of existing and stagnant TIFIA credit program's contract authority to the in-demand Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, along with 75 percent of any future unused amounts out of the \$250 million provided to TIFIA in each of FY 2025 and 2026.

In addition, we sincerely appreciate the inclusion of key water policy provisions that reflect recommendations made by the AASHTO Board of Directors to Congress earlier this year:

- Increases the maximum depth of for deepening harbor channels from 50 feet to 55 feet with regard to determining the federal cost share both for a construction project and for operations and maintenance dredging projects;
- Increases General Fund support for inland waterway projects for the costs of construction;
- Supports beneficial use of dredged materials to facilitate dredging projects and provide key supports for beach nourishment projects and other coastal management needs to drive infrastructure resiliency, and;
- Calls for developing and implementing a framework for integrating, sharing, and using water data for the purpose of improving water resources management.

We look forward to supporting you in getting this critical legislation across the finish line. Please contact Joung Lee, Deputy Director-Chief Policy Officer, at jlee@aaashto.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jim Tymon
Executive Director