

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Michael Waltz  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Burgum, Administrator Zeldin, and Advisor Waltz:

The undersigned organizations support the implementation of the Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure established under the [Flood Level, Observation, Operations, and Decision Support Act \(FLOODS Act\)](#). Doing so will help align missions and eliminate duplication across the more than twenty-four federal agencies and commissions with jurisdiction over water issues. The nation's economic, health, and infrastructure priorities require coordination among federal and state regulators, local communities, and the business community to ensure effective delivery of water services and use of taxpayer dollars.

The benefits of such coordination include:

- **Elevates Water as a National Priority.** The risks of not tackling water stress are enormous, and it is vital that the United States invests in water security and innovation to prevent many of the challenges that will stem from future threats to water availability, accessibility, and resilience (e.g., drought and water scarcity) at home and abroad. We urge increased, regular, and formal agency coordination, including making water an important element of the national security strategy, trade agreements, other interagency approaches, led by a dedicated role and resources at the White House.
- **Eliminates Duplication.** The FLOODS Act and [executive order 13956](#) make clear that modernizing the interagency process should result in, at the very least, reducing the overlap in missions, while promoting policy sharing and coordination of program implementation.
- **Projects American Leadership Across the Globe.** Water is a connector across sectors and communities. Water is an entry point to engage our friends and allies across the world and build consensus when other issues are more challenging.

- **Provides the Foundation for Economic Growth.** Water services are vital to building a thriving economy, creating jobs, supporting high-growth companies, and ensuring quality of life. They help fuel energy, sustain public health, and lay critical groundwork for smart city infrastructure. Coordinated action and investment in first-class water services are essential to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. economy and the investment needs for expanding economic gains.

We suggest convening a national dialogue with a broad group of stakeholders representing businesses, environmental and conservation organizations, state and local governments, and others to highlight options and opportunities for the future of water services.

Improving interagency coordination is critical for effective use of federal funding for water infrastructure, without which cities, especially small communities, will be unable to afford mandatory multimillion-dollar water and wastewater system upgrades and pipe replacements. Together, we can ensure that communities across America have sustainable, reliable, and resilient supplies of water, enabling them to attract new businesses and grow the economy.

We stand ready to assist you.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Water Works Association  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Ecological Restoration Business Association  
Essential Minerals Association  
Global Water Challenge  
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials  
International Desalination and Reuse Association  
Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association for Surface Finishing  
National Association of Water Companies  
National Mining Association

Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Water Partnership  
Water Environment Federation  
WaterReuse Association  
Water Quality Association  
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association