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July 2, 2026

The Honorable Kevin Cramer, Chair
The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cramer and Ranking Member Alsobrooks:

The Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) appreciates the Committee's continued leadership on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and its attention to the challenges faced by non-Federal sponsors entering U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs).

We write to inform the Committee that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on PPA reform, directed by WRDA 2024, is expected to be released in mid-July. ICWP and our coalition of nationwide partners have worked with GAO over the past year to help inform its review of PPA requirements, including issues related to indemnification and operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) obligations.

ICWP respectfully urges the Committee to review GAO's forthcoming recommendations and incorporate appropriate PPA reform language into the Senate's forthcoming WRDA bill. Codifying these recommendations would provide needed clarity and certainty for non-Federal partners and help ensure that USACE partnership requirements are equitable, workable and consistent with state and local legal constraints.

ICWP supports reforms that: 1) address blanket indemnification requirements, and 2) define a reasonable endpoint for OMRR&R obligations. These changes would reduce barriers to participation and strengthen federal partnerships that advance water resource projects nationwide.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these reforms as the Senate continues development of its WRDA legislation.

For further questions or clarification, please contact ICWP Executive Director Beth Callaway at: beth@icwp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Beth Callaway', with a stylized, flowing script.

Beth Callaway
Executive Director
Interstate Council on Water Policy