



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

October 23, 2013

Dear Representative Young:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we would like to convey our strong support for your amendment to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). This amendment requires the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE), where feasible, to contract with private sector surveying, mapping, and geospatial firms.

Surveying and mapping have historically been considered "commercial" activities. This sector comprises a broad number of firms – including many ACEC members – that provide critical services to government agencies at all levels. According to the Department of Labor, the jobs created by surveying and mapping firms make this sector among the fastest growing in our economy.

Due to existing budget constraints that limit the amount of available Federal funding for infrastructure, including water resource projects, Congress and federal agencies should take full advantage of the efficiencies the private sector can bring to the project delivery process.

Your amendment is a positive step towards achieving that goal. We commend you for your leadership on this important issue, and urge the House to support your amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written below the word "Sincerely,".