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October 23, 2013

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Young:

On behalf of the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), an association uniquely comprised of 110 of the leading design *and* construction firms doing billions of dollars in public and private infrastructure work in the United States, I want to express our ardent support for your amendment to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).

By requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to contract with private sector surveying and mapping firms, wherever practical, in the performance of these services for Corps projects; your amendment will help eliminate costly, unfair and inefficient government duplication of and competition with the private sector.

Just as importantly, the amendment will require the Secretary to issue critically vital agency guidance/policy to *encourage* use of the private sector for surveying and mapping services, as well as establishing a process to provide oversight of the performance of compliance with the guidance.

Numerous studies have found there is a capable and qualified private sector in the surveying and mapping field, which government agencies should utilize in lieu of an in-house build up. As an organization that represents designers (architects and engineers) as well as construction contractors – we are well aware of the essential nature private sector firms perform in providing valuable surveying and mapping services for our projects.

Simply stated – the free enterprise system, and the healthy competition it creates among private sector firms, is the most productive and efficient provider of commercially available products and services.

Your amendment is a positive step towards reorienting the federal government to rely on its citizens and the private sector for goods and services. We commend you for your leadership on this important issue, and urge the House to support your amendment.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Casso, Esq.
President