



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND LEADERSHIP

Reverse the Dissolution of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Program

June 2026

Dear Mr. Secretary,

SAVE International, the global professional society for Value Methodology and Value Engineering, respectfully calls upon the Department of War to immediately reverse the decision to dissolve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Program and restore its organizational capability no later than July 1, 2026.

This request is not about preserving a program for its own sake. Dissolving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Program directly undermines the Department's mission to deliver projects efficiently, effectively, and responsibly. Value Engineering is not an administrative layer that slows delivery; it is a proven tool that prevents costly delays, reduces change orders, improves project performance, and protects taxpayer investments.

Removing this capability increases the risk of waste, cost growth, schedule overruns, and missed opportunities to improve outcomes. At a time when government leaders are calling for greater efficiency and accountability, eliminating one of the federal government's most successful value and cost-saving programs puts both mission success and taxpayer stewardship at risk.

For decades, federal agencies have documented returns on investment through Value Engineering programs. The [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) itself reports:

"Since its inception, the USACE Value Program has reported over \$24 billion in cost avoidance and cost savings, resulting in added capabilities to federal resources at a return on investment of over 200:1."

Every dollar invested in the process has generated significant savings through reduced costs, improved performance, shortened schedules, and avoided risk. Value Engineering pays for itself many times over while delivering greater capability and value to the American taxpayer.

This decision is particularly concerning because it appears inconsistent with the Administration's own commitment to efficiency, accountability, and taxpayer stewardship.

In [Executive Order 14271](#), *Ensuring Commercial, Cost-Effective Solutions in Federal Contracts*, President Trump directed federal agencies to maximize the use of private-sector innovation and cost-effective solutions, stating:

"My Administration will enforce existing laws directing the Federal Government to utilize, to the maximum extent practicable, the competitive marketplace and the innovations of private enterprise to provide better, more cost-effective services to taxpayers."

Value Engineering embodies this principle. It is one of the federal government's most successful mechanisms for introducing private-sector innovation, challenging assumptions, identifying cost-effective alternatives, and improving project outcomes.

The principle is also consistent with President Trump's own business practices. A [2013 development agreement](#) involving the Trump Organization stated:

"Value Engineering will be a normal part of the design and construction process, managed by Trump."

The private sector understands what decades of federal experience have confirmed: Value Engineering is not an obstacle to delivery. It is a proven management practice that improves delivery.

The importance of value-focused government was reinforced at the 2025 U.S. Advocacy for Value (USAV) Symposium in Arlington, Virginia. Addressing government leaders and industry professionals from across the country, Representative Pete Sessions (TX-17) stated:

"Government is looking at itself differently, and what we're trying to accomplish on the Hill is about value."

We agree. If government is truly focused on value, then dismantling one of the government's longest-standing and most successful value-management capabilities is difficult to justify.

Furthermore, Value Engineering is supported by longstanding federal statutes, regulations, and policy directives, including [Public Law 111-350](#) and [OMB Circular A-131](#). These requirements exist because Congress and successive administrations recognized that taxpayers deserve objective evaluation of alternatives, responsible stewardship of public funds, and accountability for project outcomes.

The question raised by this decision is straightforward:

If government leaders are serious about reducing waste, improving efficiency, strengthening accountability, and maximizing return on taxpayer investment, why would a federal agency eliminate one of the very capabilities established to achieve those objectives?

The consequences extend far beyond the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This decision risks the loss of institutional knowledge, reduces independent project analysis, weakens accountability, increases the likelihood of avoidable project changes, and establishes a precedent that other agencies may follow.

The American taxpayer deserves confidence that government agencies are strengthening accountability mechanisms, not reducing them.

Therefore, SAVE International respectfully requests that the Department of War:

1. Immediately reverse the decision to dissolve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Program.
2. Preserve the personnel, expertise, and organizational structure necessary to maintain compliance with federal Value Engineering requirements.
3. Conduct an independent review of the impacts this decision will have on taxpayer stewardship, project delivery, acquisition performance, and statutory compliance.
4. Reaffirm the Department's commitment to Value Engineering as a proven tool for improving cost, schedule, performance, risk management, and stakeholder engagement.

The decision to dissolve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Program creates unnecessary risk to the Department's mission by eliminating a proven mechanism for accountability, efficiency, and value.

This is not a partisan issue. It is a stewardship issue. Value Engineering strengthens accountability, improves project outcomes, reduces waste, and helps agencies deliver more capability with the resources entrusted to them. Eliminating this capability weakens the Department's ability to maximize value, manage risk, and demonstrate responsible stewardship of public funds.

For the benefit of the Department of War, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the American taxpayer, and the nation as a whole, we urge you to reconsider this decision and preserve the Value Engineering Program.

Respectfully,

SAVE International

The Value Society

On behalf of value professionals, public servants, industry leaders, and citizens committed to accountability, stewardship, performance, and value in the business of government.