

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/12/16**Think Tank Commends Senate on Hearing for WRDA Reauthorization**

WASHINGTON – The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) commends the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee for getting an early start on Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization this week. The committee held a hearing on Wednesday to discuss necessary inclusions in the upcoming reauthorization.

As Congress moves forward with WRDA, Army Corp funding, especially dollars intended to maintain, expand, and revitalize our nation's ports and harbors are deserving of special attention. Harbor maintenance spending continually falls well below the excise taxes collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for that express purpose with collections between \$1.5 and \$2 billion per year, and expenditures under \$1 billion.

While our ports get a "C" rating by the American Society of Civil Engineers, there are more than \$10 billion sitting idle in the fund. This infrastructure shortfall will become increasingly problematic when the Panama Canal expansion is complete and larger cargo ships approach American shores with nowhere suitable to port.

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) consists of two non-profit organizations, The National Infrastructure Safety Foundation (NISF) a 501(c)(4), and the Public Institute for Facility Safety (PIFS) a 501(c)(3). The Foundation and the Institute focus on non-partisan policy issues and are governed by separate volunteer boards working in conjunction with the Alliance's own volunteer Advisory Council.

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