



April 6, 2023

The Honorable Mike Braun
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Braun:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business voice of the nation’s engineering industry – we wish to commend you for introducing S. 2168, the Define WOTUS Act. Your legislation represents an important step in clarifying the federal government’s role in balancing environmental protection and the delivery of needed infrastructure projects to the public.

The lack of clarity in the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) that both project and environmental advocates can rely upon creates regulatory uncertainty that continues to be a major impediment to responsible development in the built environment. A long-term congressional solution is needed to provide this certainty to facilitate the permitting of essential transportation, energy, and water infrastructure projects for the clients we serve.

Passage of S. 2168 will assist in the modernization of key permitting laws and help to advance a wide range of infrastructure development under the recently enacted Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, and other initiatives.

Once again, thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation, and please let us know how we can help you on this and other initiatives to promote responsible growth in the built environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Bauer Darr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO