

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

CHAIRMAN TOM CARPER | RANKING MEMBER SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

The Water Resources Development Act of 2022

Chairman Tom Carper, Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair Ben Cardin, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Ranking Member Kevin Cramer

The bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022) authorizes much-needed investments in projects and programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) across the country. This legislation continues the recent two-year cycle for Water Resources Development Acts, ensuring timely Congressional authorization of Corps studies and projects. Through its civil works missions, the Corps assists in the construction and maintenance of ports, inland waterways, locks, dams, and other critical infrastructure essential to economic growth, the movement of goods throughout the country, and trade beyond our borders. The Corps' vital flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration programs help make our communities more resilient and sustainable.

In addition to key policy reforms, WRDA 2022 authorizes 36 new Corps feasibility studies and authorizes or modifies 21 projects for construction. The legislation also includes authorizations to study modifications to existing projects. For the first time since 2007, the bill authorizes modifications to, as well as new, environmental infrastructure projects. This bill also includes provisions directing the Corps to expedite the completion of a number of ongoing studies and projects that are critical to coastal and inland flood risk mitigation, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, among other purposes.



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Invests in our Nation's Ports and Waterways

The Corps' efforts to keep shipping channels navigable are essential to our economy. Over 99 percent of U.S. overseas trade volume moves through coastal channels that the Corps maintains. An estimated \$66 billion in investment in port-related infrastructure is needed over the next decade to ensure U.S. job creation and economic growth.

- WRDA 2022 facilitates the timely completion of much-needed improvements to the country's inland waterways system by reducing the strain on the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.
- The bill addresses the harbor deepening and maintenance needs of commercially significant ports, maintaining their competitiveness and supporting global supply chains.
- The bill also authorizes new avenues for the provision of assistance to underserved community harbors that are critical to local and regional economies.

Improves Inland and Coastal Resilience and Restores Ecosystems

Extreme weather events cause flooding that some communities are ill-prepared to withstand. Corps projects help mitigate the worst of these impacts.

- WRDA 2022 enables critical investments in the protection and restoration of shorelines and riverbanks from erosion and other damaging forces.
- The bill authorizes the Corps to modify shore protection projects during the performance of emergency restoration activities to increase resiliency.
- The bill streamlines the implementation of shoreline protection and restoration projects to aid communities most vulnerable to coastal storms.
- The bill enables communities to partner with the Corps to develop water resources projects that directly address risks of extreme weather.
- The bill supports the ability of states and localities to plan for, and respond to, water resources challenges.
- The bill authorizes the Corps to do significant work to mitigate the impact of repetitive drought conditions and conserve water supplies.