

asbpa

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

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The Honorable Bill Shuster,
Chair, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter DeFazio,
Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio,

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association is very pleased with the hard work that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has carried out to keep the biennial Water Resources Development Act on course and on time. H.R. 8 is important to the nation in keeping water resources infrastructure projects moving forward and in updating policy and provisions that ensure critical infrastructure is modernized and providing the best service to constituents. Thank you for the work the Committee conducted to produce this Act on your committed timeline. We appreciate how challenging it can be to gather the necessary support to move such critical legislation.

ASBPA particularly supports:

- 1) **Section 108, "Emergency Response To Natural Disasters,"** which fixes a problem that stemmed from language in WRRDA 2014. This allows for flood control and coastal emergency funding to be used to restore coastal risk management project,

including beaches, "to either the pre-storm level or the design level of protection, whichever provides greater protection." A small, but critical fix for communities who had been properly maintaining their federally authorized beach only to see FCCE funds leave their beach worse off after that storm than it was before.

- 2) **Section 119, "Study Of The Future Of The United States Army Corps Of Engineers."** The inclusion of a National Academies Study to look at, "(1) the ability of the Corps of Engineers to carry out its statutory missions and responsibilities, and the potential effects of transferring the functions (including regulatory obligations), personnel, assets, and civilian staff responsibilities of the Secretary relating to civil works from the Department of Defense to a new or existing agency or sub-agency of the Federal Government, including how such a transfer might affect the Federal Government's ability to meet the current statutory missions and responsibilities of the Corps of Engineers; and (2) improving the Corps of Engineers' project delivery processes, including recommendations for such improvements, taking into account factors including..." is vital in assuring that the Nation continues to receive the best possible water resources services and the best available science and technology support. Critical to this investigation is an examination of the current benefit/cost analysis that the Corps uses and whether it accurately informs the full national benefits that stem from water resources infrastructure investments.

We also agree with the statement of Rep. Graves who said, “H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act of 2018, builds upon the successes of WRRDA 2014 and WRDA 2016 – two important policy and reform-focused pieces of legislation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.” Congress should view WRDA as legislation that must be taken up every two years, and ASBPA is pleased to see your leadership making this happen in the 115th Congress.

We applaud the T&I Committee’s work on this 2018 WRDA and look forward to conference with the Senate’s *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*, which also has several provisions that ASBPA supports.

Sincerely,



Derek Brockbank
Executive Director



Anthony P. Pratt
President

CC: Energy and Water Sub-Committee Chairman Garret Graves and Ranking Member Grace Napolitano