

## **WRDA Member Day Remarks**

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the committee, for hosting this hearing.

In January 2020, winter storms and high water levels caused significant damage to many Great Lakes communities' water infrastructure, such as the Racine harbor breakwater in my district.

If repairs are not made to the aging and damaged breakwater, flooding and storms will threaten Racine's historic downtown and urban Root River revitalization plans.

For that reason, I am here today to advocate for my proposed addition to the 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

My proposed language would provide an additional avenue for publicly owned, underserved community harbors, particularly ones in the Great Lakes, to receive federal assistance for certain water infrastructure projects.

Should this language be included in a finalized 2024 WRDA bill, more communities struggling to generate the necessary capital to complete important water infrastructure projects and harbor maintenance would qualify for funding.

It would also remove one of the barriers in the way of the expeditious completion of dredging projects.

I appreciate the subcommittee's engagement with my staff on this issue and look forward to our office's continued collaboration, Mr. Chair.