



July 13, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Collins
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources
And Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frederica Wilson
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources
And Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Graves and Collins and Ranking Members Larsen and Wilson:

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our 1.9 million members and supporters, we thank you for keeping another Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) on track for completion after another two-year cycle.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2026 continues a bipartisan tradition of supporting the Army Corps' work preparing communities and the areas around coastal and river parks from extreme weather. Through the bill's ongoing oversight and improvements to the Army Corps' programs and processes, it supports efficient and effective restoration of landscapes and makes them and nearby communities more resilient.

NPCA appreciates that this bill:

- Supports the use of natural systems to protect communities from flooding by creating a pilot program for an alternative cost-justification of natural and nature-based features (Sec. 131).
- Keeps Great Lakes restoration moving forward through needed adjustments to a critical regional program focused on restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem (Sec. 326).
- Supports restoration efforts for America's Everglades advancing projects that are enhancing clean water delivery and restoring historical flows into Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Big Cypress National Preserve and Florida Bay (Secs. 202(a)(2), 202(b)(6), 204(d), 401(5)(3), 402(b)(8-9)).
- Clarifies that the Army Corps retains ownership of the underwater cutoff wall constructed by the Corps on the riverbed in the vicinity of St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota (Sec. 306(c)).
- Provides the Corps with additional tools to address the severe impacts of drought and to build drought resilient communities through a new Continuing Authorities Program (Sec. 109).

Headquarters
777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001
P 202.NAT.PARK | 800.628.7275

[NPCA.org](https://www.npca.org)

- Continues to address all flooding around Gateway National Recreation Area and other New York and New Jersey parks by clarifying that the Corps' flood risk management and coastal storm risk management work address all types of flooding (Sec. 133).

Since 1919, NPCA has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. The Army Corps is an important partner in many places where we work to protect and restore national park waterways and landscapes, the communities that surround them and the millions of people who visit them each year. From Gateway to Grand Canyon, Everglades to Olympic, water is central to the features, wildlife, recreation and aesthetic of these esteemed places. However, the natural, cultural and historic resources in national parks, once viewed as isolated and remote, are affected by activities occurring in their watersheds. These beyond park boundary activities often enhance or detract from the visitor experience.

Thank you for keeping WRDA on its two-year cycle. We look forward to the completion of another bipartisan bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at 202.257.4365 or clord@npca.org.

Sincerely,

Chad Lord
Senior Director, Government Affairs