

The Honorable Charles Schumer Majority Leader U.S. Senate S-221 Capitol Building Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives H-204 Capitol Building Washington, D.C. 20515

> The Honorable Thomas Carper Chairman Committee on Environment and Public Works U.S. Senate 513 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Ranking Member Committee on Environment and Public Works U.S. Senate 172 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairman Carper, and Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and our 15,000 members, I write in support of H.R. 7776, the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA). This measure would help create sustainable water infrastructure projects, while also addressing climate change impacts and environmental justice. ASLA appreciates your leadership in crafting and promoting this essential legislation.

As you know, WRDA 2022 is critical to support the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) water management infrastructure projects, studies, and policies that assist in protecting our nation's people, infrastructure, and vital natural resources. ASLA is particularly pleased that this year's WRDA provides enhanced tools to mitigate climate change impacts and promote community resiliency, with particular attention to flood control; sealevel rise; ecosystem restoration; damaged shorelines and natural landscape protection and more.

In addition, ASLA supports the bill's equity and environmental justice initiatives, which authorize the Corps to address water resource needs and challenges facing economically disadvantaged communities, communities of color, and Tribal and rural communities, as well as require local liaisons for enhanced coordination with Tribal and indigenous groups.

Landscape architects are uniquely educated and trained to lead the design, planning, and implementation of water infrastructure projects that help foster resilient, sustainable, and equitable communities. The profession works closely with the Corps on WRDA projects using green infrastructure and nature-based solutions that focus on water and stormwater management issues, damaged shorelines and natural landscape protection, and more.

As the WRDA continues to move through the legislative process, ASLA urges your continued efforts to move this measure to final passage, so that landscape architects and other infrastructure planners may continue to successfully address water resources issues, while also providing other community benefits.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions or would like to follow up on this legislative matter, please feel contact me or ASLA Manager of Federal Government Affairs, Caleb Raspler, at craspler@asla.org or (202) 216-2372.

Sincerely,

Torey Carter-Conneen Chief Executive Officer