



December 4, 2024

Dear Chairmen Carper and Graves, and Ranking Members Capito and Larsen,

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) commends your leadership in advancing the biannual Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) process. ASBPA's membership, representing over a thousand members from coast to coast, recognizes the significance of this legislation for civil works stakeholders and appreciates the opportunity to share our priorities for this important legislative action. As you are aware, since 1926, ASBPA has been dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy. Our role is to be a team player in addressing climate change and increasing the resiliency of the nation's coastlines. We are grateful for both Committees' willingness to include many of ASBPA's priorities in this and previous WRDA bills. Thank you for listening to our requests to include the following Sections in

the WRDA 2024 compromise bill.

Sec. 1123. National Coastal Mapping Program. Formally establishing this program enables federal agencies to efficiently address the nation's mapping needs by collecting data once, using it multiple times, and sharing it with the public. The NCMP must have the flexibility to gather additional terrestrial and bathymetric data in dynamic environments such as barrier beaches and coastal inlets. Mapping is also essential in identifying potential sediment sources for resiliency projects, refining our coastal challenges, and designing solutions.

Sec. 1130. Beneficial Use Program. Setting the maximization of beneficial use of dredged material as a national goal, which requires at least 70% of suitable dredged material to be utilized for purposes like ecosystem restoration and coastal protection, enhances the significance of this program. Integrating and mandating beneficial use into federally authorized dredged material management and regional sediment management plans is particularly essential in areas at risk of coastal land loss or shoreline erosion. This has been a federal priority for ASBPA for many years. Our community members also appreciate the provision that allows non-federal use at no cost, aside from transportation and liability.

Sec. 1145. Easements for hurricane and storm damage reduction projects. We appreciate the flexibility for our coastal community members to meet Army Corps real estate requirements, particularly because mother nature does not obey property boundaries. For optimal responses to storms and to increase overall coastal resilience, beachfront communities require broad, systematic solutions.

We support the efforts of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Environment and Public Works in developing this bill which is of great benefit to our members and associates. ASBPA is grateful for the direct dialogue and sustained collaboration that you have established for WRDA 2024. Thank you for including ASBPA as a valued partner on coastal issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Elko', written in a cursive style.

Nicole Elko, Ph.D.  
Executive Director