



**December 6, 2024**

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader

Senator Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader

Chairman Sam Graves  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Ranking Member Rick Larsen  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Chairman David Rouzer  
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Ranking Member Grace Napolitano  
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Chairman Shelley Moore Capito  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Ranking Member Thomas Carper  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Chairman Kevin Cramer  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

Ranking Member Ben Cardin  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

**Re: Support for the 2024 Water Resources Development Act**

**Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Sam Graves, Chairwoman David Rouzer, Chairwoman Shelley Moore Capito, and Chairman Kevin Cramer, and Ranking Members Rick Larsen, Grace Napolitano, Thomas Carper, and Ben Cardin:**

American Rivers writes to support the passing of the 2024 Water Resources Development Act. The safety and environmental provisions in this bill are urgently needed to help protect both the people and waterways of the United States, and we applaud your dedication to address these significant bipartisan and bicameral issues. This critical piece of legislation protects our natural and engineered water infrastructure as well as the people who rely on it. We urge you to pass this bill into law.

American Rivers is the only national organization dedicated entirely to protecting and restoring the rivers on which all life depends, and there are numerous provisions in this bill that we especially support. We are particularly pleased to see Section 1132 – Improvements to National Dam Safety Program. As the largest source of federal support for state dam safety agencies, the reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program is critically important for public safety. The WRDA bill includes several provisions that will help promote the use of nature-based approaches and better serve and protect our communities while promoting ecosystem resilience through forward thinking levee management.

American Rivers also strongly supports revisions to the National Inventory of Dams, particularly the inclusion of low-head dams. Low-heads dams are the deadliest form of water infrastructure, and this inventory will contribute significantly to public safety.

Additionally, American Rivers supports the provision of community project advisors in Section 1101 – Outreach and Access to provide guidance and transparency to non-federal interests. American Rivers is also supportive of Section 1140 – Tribal Partnership Program to provide increased technical assistance and more equitably support tribes in water infrastructure projects.

American Rivers further supports Section 1143 – Watershed and River Basin Assessments, especially the inclusion of the Connecticut, Lower Rouge, and Grand River Watersheds, along with Section 1138 – Shoreline and Riverine Protection and Restoration, particularly the inclusion of the shoreline of the state of Connecticut.

We specifically support the inclusion of the following GAO Studies: Study on Institutional Barriers to Nature-Based Features, Study on Ecosystem Services, and Study on Tribal Coordination.

Furthermore, we support Section 1354 – Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program to increase resources available for the restoration of the Mississippi River.

We thank you again for your dedication to ensuring public safety, river restoration, and floodplain protection through provisions in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act.

For further information, please contact Kelsey Cruickshank, American Rivers ([kcruickshank@americanrivers.org](mailto:kcruickshank@americanrivers.org)).

Sincerely,

Kelsey Cruickshank  
Director, Government Relations

