



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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**MATTHEW S. BIGGS**  
President

**GAY HENSON**  
Secretary-Treasurer

December 6, 2024

Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Michael Johnson  
House Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jefferies  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Majority Leader Schumer, House Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jefferies:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 union members, including thousands of federal employees at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to ask that you and every Member of Congress support the passage of the House Amendment to S. 4367, Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. We urge you to ensure the passage of this important legislation before the end of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The biannual WRDA is a critical piece of legislation for IFPTE members working at USACE as well as for Americans in every part of the nation who count on the resources, supply chains, and economic benefits delivered by the USACE Civil Works mission. WRDA authorizes waterways construction and flood control projects, operations and maintenance expenditures, feasibility studies, and ecosystem preservation necessary to ensure that our nation's inland waterway infrastructure contributes to our national economy and communities throughout the U.S. and is a core part of our national security. IFPTE members working for USACE make invaluable contributions towards carrying out these missions, and we proudly support and represent the USACE federal workforce who are always there to move forward public projects that are part of the foundation of our economic and national security and a vital link in support of our military.

Both chambers advanced their respective WRDA legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support and we are very pleased to see key provisions from both bills make it into the final compromise WRDA text. In particular, we applaud the inclusion of provisions to ensure cybersecurity, physical security, public safety, and stakeholder input before any use of remote operations at locks and dams and hydroelectric dams, and the robust funding for inland waterways projects and necessary project authorizations for critical infrastructure throughout the final WRDA text.

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**Julian Ware**  
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We also wish to note our appreciation for the efforts of the leadership, Membership, and committee staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee throughout the process that produced this WRDA text. The final bill represents the priorities of communities across the nation, and by doing so, it takes a significant step toward improving the maintenance, operations, and modernization of our nation's critical infrastructure. Finally, we commend Senate Environment and Public Works Chair Tom Carper for his lifelong commitment to serving our nation, his bipartisan approach to legislating, and his leadership in passing effective legislation that supports our communities, our critical infrastructure, and our national security.

For all these reasons, we urge you to support the passage and enactment of the House Amendment to S. 4367, Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 before the end of the year. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at [fkhan@ifpte.org](mailto:fkhan@ifpte.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President



Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

