



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

December 5, 2024

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

The Honorable Mike Johnson
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

JAMES M. SWEENEY
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS

The International Union of Operating Engineers appreciates the bipartisan, bicameral process that led to the development of the conference report of the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024, S. 4367. We respectfully encourage all Members of the House of Representatives to support the legislation as it is considered on the floor next week.

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The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is one of North America's leading construction unions, representing over 408,000 hardworking men and women in the United States and Canada. Most members of the IUOE work in the construction sector, operating and maintaining heavy equipment; thousands of us are employed building the nation's roads, bridges, highways, and other transportation infrastructure. Members of the IUOE also dredge the nation's ports, harbors, and inland waterways, and perform extensive amounts of in-water construction. The union proudly represents Stationary Engineers – skilled maintenance workers who operate and maintain industrial, energy, commercial, and public facilities across North America.

Naming the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 after Thomas R. Carper, the Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, is a fitting way to honor his service. We also appreciate the bill's recognition of Grace F. Napolitano for her longstanding service to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, especially for her leadership on water issues in the subcommittee. The International Union of Operating Engineers commends them for their outstanding public service and wishes them well in their well-deserved retirements.

The legislation authorizes more than 200 feasibility studies of local projects – projects that could eventually move goods, restore ecosystems, bolster the nation's defenses against floods and extreme weather events, and, most importantly to the IUOE, create jobs. The bill authorizes modifications to dozens of projects and allows twenty-one new projects to proceed to construction phase, creating jobs for Operating Engineers and other hardworking Americans.



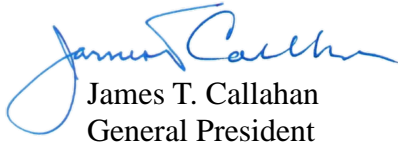
Nearly 80% of the nation's traded goods rely on American ports, harbors, and inland waterways to reach consumers, and these WRDA investments are vital for their efficient movement. In short, the legislation promotes both regional economies and the national transportation network, and water infrastructure is an area where Congress deserves high marks. Your ability to reauthorize WRDA for six consecutive congresses clearly demonstrates that America's ports, harbors, and inland waterways enjoy bipartisan support in the nation's capital.

We are also pleased to see the legislation address other critical issues in the committees' jurisdiction: reallocation of resources to Surface Transportation Block Grants and the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration. Those important steps lead to good jobs, safer commutes, a cleaner environment; they support local economic development and strong communities.

The International Union of Operating Engineers is pleased to support the bipartisan Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. Please swiftly pass this legislation and send it to President Biden's desk for his signature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James T. Callahan
General President