



**NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**

National Advocacy Center

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Chairman  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024

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

The National Wildlife Federation writes in support of important provisions within the Thomas R Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 that would help protect and restore vital wildlife habitats and advance the development of equitable solutions to entrenched water resources challenges. We thank Chairmen Graves and Carper and Ranking Members Larsen and Capito for their bipartisan leadership in developing these important provisions and advancing them through conference.

Coastal and riverine communities—and especially communities of color and Tribes—face immense and intensifying water resources challenges in the face of climate-fueled floods and disasters and decades of assaults on the natural systems that protect people and wildlife alike. These same assaults are also pushing the nation’s fish and wildlife to the brink. Under your leadership, this bill builds on recent Water Resources Development Acts to make progress in addressing these challenges.

The National Wildlife Federation supports the important provisions in WRDA 2024 that will:

- Improve wildlife habitat and community resilience by ensuring that the Army Corps takes advantage of the most up to date and effective planning tools and implements modern planning requirements established in previous Water Resources Development Acts. These include Sections 1102, 1103, 1114, 1122, 1123, 1131, 1162, 1237, 1244(a), (d), (k), (m), (n), (o), and 1301.
- Redress pervasive environmental injustices by facilitating water resources planning assistance to Tribes and frontline communities. These include Sections 1137, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1239, and 1244(p).

- Advance vital restoration projects and planning across the nation, including advancing vital restoration of America's Everglades, restoring the Mississippi River and its vital floodplain wetlands, preventing the movement of invasive carp from the Mississippi River basin into the Great Lakes, and restoring water impacted by acid mine drainage. These include Sections 1121, 1227, 1316, 1345, 1354, and 1401(6)(1) and (6)(2).

The National Wildlife Federation does have concerns with a number of provisions and projects in WRDA 2024 due to their potential for significant adverse implications for vital wildlife habitat, natural infrastructure, and communities, including Sections 1125, 1126, and 1341.

Sincerely,



Abby Tinsley  
Vice President for Conservation Policy  
National Wildlife Federation