



National Audubon Society
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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2024

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the National Audubon Society, I write to express support for S. 4367, the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)* of 2024 and urge final passage of this legislation in the coming days. This bill is critical for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Army Corps) mission of aquatic ecosystem restoration. Congress' return to the bipartisan, biennial WRDA cycle over the past ten years has galvanized significant momentum for restoration and kept projects on track and to completion. Audubon thanks the leadership from Chair Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen for their bipartisan work in developing this important bill and advancing it through conference.

Audubon's mission is to protect birds and the places they need. North America's bird population has declined by 3 billion birds since 1970 – a loss of more than one in four birds. These losses are an ecological and economic disaster that demand attention. WRDA 2024 provides an opportunity to drive ecosystem restoration and climate resilience by ensuring that Army Corps policies and projects provide the maximum conservation and community benefits to protect birds and communities throughout the country. The final WRDA 2024 represents a stellar example of what can be achieved when we focus on science and the benefits of ecosystem restoration for birds, wildlife, and communities in a bipartisan manner.

Thank you,

Julie Hill-Gabriel
Vice President, Habitat Conservation for North America
National Audubon Society