

**To:** Mr. Carter

**From:** Hart

**Date:** 2.24.20

**Re:** Talking Points – WRDA Member Day

**Talking Points:**

- ) Good morning and thank you for letting me testify in front of the Committee today.
- ) I have the honor and privilege of representing the First Congressional District of Georgia which contains all 110 miles of the State's coastline.
- ) Between the Georgia ports, tourism, seafood, and more, the coastline is integral to our economy and quality of life.
- ) But unfortunately, our area has been hit by hurricanes in each of the last 3 years with another near miss this year by Hurricane Dorian.
- ) The City of Tybee Island is taking these natural disasters very seriously and is a model for cities around the country that are trying to prepare for these weather events.
- ) Among other things, the City is working on a major beach re-nourishment project that uses federal funds authorized through WRDA.
- ) However, the Corps of Engineers, in its latest cost/benefit analysis study, jeopardizes the project's future beyond 2023.

- )] Because of language in WRDA, the Corps is forced to use an outdated cost/benefit model which, in Tybee's case, can only look at damages that might occur within the next 15 years.
- )] Tybee, though, won't see damages until 2060 which is largely due to the hard work, and financial investments, they have been putting into the island in order to protect itself from weather events.
- )] My staff has discussed this issue with the Army Corps of Engineers, T&I Committee staff, and other Member offices and we believe we have some legislative language that can fix this situation.
- )] The language specifically authorizes the Secretary to recommend that Congress authorize up to 50 years of nourishment to begin on the date of construction and adds general study authority to extend the period of nourishment for up to an additional 50 years after expiration of the original authorized period of nourishment.
- )] I will be submitting the full extent of the language along with other offices for the record and encourage the Committee to include it in this year's version of WRDA.
- )] Simply put, we need to ensure that our communities are becoming more resilient in the face of these storms, but with WRDA's current language on cost/benefit analyses, we are punishing communities who are trying to take those steps.
- )] Thank you, again, for the opportunity to speak today.