

- Thank you, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen for the opportunity to testify today.
- I'd like to highlight several WRDA priorities for my district in Southwest Washington, including one that has been in the works since 1986.

Grey's River Dredging Project

- Up first: Wahkiakum County, an economically disadvantaged area in my district, located on the Columbia River, is requesting assistance from the Army Corps for a study to address the flooding problems in Rosburg and Grays River.
- This area regularly experiences flooding, and as a result, fine sediment accumulation at the confluence of the Grays and Columbia Rivers. Over the past 30 years, the floods have only gotten worse. When flooding occurs on the Grays River, it cuts off access to approximately 500 people living in these rural communities, often for two days or more at a time. Within a matter of hours, this flooding limits vital emergency services, business operations, and school transportation, and leaves behind sediment that can be dangerous and time consuming to remove.
- That's why I support the County's request for the Army Corps to assess the causes of the fine sediment accumulation and help determine solutions to mitigate risks for the area moving forward.

North Bonneville Conveyance

- Secondly, I'd like to highlight an important conveyance request that has been nearly 40 years in the making in my home county of Skamania.

- As a result of federal, state, and trust land ownership, and the added development restrictions from the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, very little land in Skamania County is developable for commercial or industrial purposes.
- In 1986, the Port of Skamania initiated a request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to acquire industrial property and a building in North Bonneville for the purposes of economic development.
- Now, almost 40 years later, the Port is still working to acquire the 1.6 acre parcel of land and building for economic development. I support the inclusion of this conveyance in the bill.

- These are two projects important to my district, but they are just a snapshot of the provisions I look forward to supporting in this year's WRDA.

- My district is home to 15 ports that are critical economic drivers that are very dependent on the Army Corps and the work authorized in this legislation.

- These priorities are supported by a broad set of stakeholders in my district and I look forward to working with this committee to get them over the finish line.