



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

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June 6, 2022

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Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Kevin McCarthy,
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 professionals across North America, including 7,000 federal employees at U.S. Army Corps Engineers (USACE), to express our support for the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA), H.R. 7776.

The biannual WRDA is a critical piece of legislation for IFPTE members working at USACE and as well as for Americans in every part of the nation who count on the resources, supply chains, and economic benefits our nation's waterways provide. WRDA authorizes waterways construction and flood control projects, operations and maintenance expenditures, feasibility studies, and ecosystem preservation necessary to make sure that our nation's inland waterway infrastructure provides a fundamental contribution to our national economy and to communities throughout the U.S. We applaud the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for including provisions in the WRDA text that will improve coordination and partnership with local communities, authorize improvements to water quality, water management, safety, and environmental restoration, among other advancements.

While we support passage of the bill and appreciate the work of Chair DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Subcommittee Chair Napolitano, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Rouzer, we are disappointed that the legislation does not pause USACE's ongoing implementation of remote operation of locks and dams and, most critically, hydroelectric systems, which may pose a severe cybersecurity risk. Further, the bill does not protect USACE Park Rangers' jobs and functions as inherently governmental – these federal workers are the USACE's eyes and ears on the waterfront and help protect critical infrastructure. Both of these are IFPTE priorities that have profound implications for national security and the safe operation of USACE critical infrastructure. IFPTE will continue to advocate for these issues to be resolved as well as push for adjusting the general revenue cost share of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) from 65% to 75%, as is included in the Senate's WRDA text.

We call on you to support and pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 in the House and in the 117th Congress. Our union is committed to making sure this important legislation provides critical resources for maintaining, modernizing, and improving our nations' waterways.

Thank you for considering our support for WRDA. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly or to IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892 or fkhan@ifpte.org.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

Cc:

Hon. Peter DeFazio, Chair
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Hon. Sam Graves, Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Hon. Grace Napolitano, Chair
House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

Hon. David Rouzer, Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment