

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair
The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano, Chair
The Honorable David Rouzer, Ranking Member
Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives



Dear Chairs DeFazio and Napolitano, and Ranking Members Graves and Rouzer,

On behalf of the Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD), I am writing to express strong support for floor consideration of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA) in the United States House of Representatives. MCDD applauds the bipartisan spirit in which this legislation was crafted and appreciates the inclusion of a construction authorization for the Portland Metro Levee System Project, OR.

As I shared with the Committee during my February 8, 2022 testimony, this flood risk reduction project along the second largest river in the nation is an urgent need for the greater Portland region, the Pacific Northwest, and the nation. This Portland Metro Levee System is our region's first line of defense. In fact, the area located behind the Portland Metro Levee System contains an at-risk population of approximately 42,000 people during the day and 8,000 people at night. It sustains more than 59,000 jobs and \$16 billion in annual economic activity and reduces the risk of flooding for two airports, including the award-winning Portland International, three interstate highways, multiple transit and rail lines, regional electricity transmission facilities, back up drinking water wells, a new US Postal Service processing center, and a US Air National Guard base, as well as more than 2,000 acres of parks and natural areas that provide habitat for multiple species and close-in access to nature for underserved communities.

We are proud of the ongoing partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and are eager to see the project's Chief's Report approved through the WRDA 2022 bill. We are grateful for the bipartisan commitment to maintaining biannual consideration of WRDA, and MCDD stands ready to assist as the legislative process moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Middaugh
Executive Director
Multnomah County Drainage District

