

June 6, 2022



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chairwoman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Rouzer
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress:

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is pleased to see the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) passed by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. PNWA is a non-profit, non-partisan trade association that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic development. Founded in 1934, our membership has grown to include over 150 entities. For over 85 years, PNWA members have advocated for efficient, reliable, and environmentally sustainable waterways.

Our members appreciate your bipartisan and bicameral approach to WRDA reauthorization. This legislation will continue the critical investments needed in our nations' infrastructure at our ports and in our waterways. While the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) continues to implement policy changes enacted in recent WRDA reauthorizations, this bill's project focus will bring on-the-ground value to projects and communities throughout the nation, including the Pacific Northwest. While we are working with our membership throughout our region to analyze the bill in greater detail, we do want to express our support for the following project and study authorizations:

- Tacoma Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, Washington
- Project for water supply and ecosystem restoration at Howard A. Hanson Dam, Washington.
- Everett Harbor and Snohomish River, Washington
- Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, Lake Washington Ship Canal, Washington
- Port Townsend, Washington
- Coos Bay, Oregon
- Project for navigation, Columbia and Lower Willamette Rivers, Washington and Oregon

We are pleased to see expansion of Section 214 authority to include mitigation bank permitting which will provide benefits to ports seeking to fulfill economic development and job creation goals while simultaneously providing

stewardship and environmental restoration opportunities through port sponsored mitigation banks. This will also continue to foster environmentally sustainable waterways in our region and nationwide.

We also recognize the importance of salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest and the West Coast, and acknowledge efforts to restore the ecosystem and habitat for endangered salmon. PNWA continues to support a robust Columbia River Fish Mitigation program, and salmon recovery efforts on a broader scale for the West Coast region. We also acknowledge that our federal lock and dam projects provide significant value to the Pacific Northwest region and the nation, and any new process would need to ensure that the congressionally authorized and operational purposes of the dams are maintained well into the future.

Many thanks to you and your staff for your diligent work on this legislation. Water projects are essential to our modern-day economy and society, and PNWA appreciates your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Stebbings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" being more prominent than the last name "Stebbins".

Heather Stebbings
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association