



**The Council  
of State  
Governments**

Dec. 6, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Committee on the Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
170 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of The Council of State Governments (CSG), I am writing to express our strong support for the final agreement on the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. This critical legislation addresses pressing water resource challenges, outlines a comprehensive strategy to enhance water infrastructure, and promotes environmental sustainability while supporting local economies.

As you know, the need for robust water resource management has never been more urgent. With aging infrastructure and increasing population pressures, communities face significant challenges in ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable water resources. The Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 acknowledges these challenges and provides essential tools and funding to empower states and local governments to address their water needs effectively.

This legislation is vital because it authorizes key projects for flood risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration while emphasizing the importance of collaboration among federal, state, and local partners. By encouraging innovative solutions and promoting best practices in water management, this bill fosters a more resilient and adaptive approach to addressing water resource challenges.

Additionally, we are pleased that the bill includes the bipartisan Economic Development Reauthorization Act, which represents the first comprehensive reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 20 years. This component of the legislation modernizes EDA's core programs and authorizes activities such as workforce development and disaster assistance. It also updates laws related to federal regional commissions while establishing two new regional commissions.

We urge Congress to act swiftly to pass this vital legislation during the lame-duck session. Doing so will provide much-needed resources to enhance our nation's water infrastructure and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. The Council of State Governments stands ready to support your efforts in advancing this legislation and remains committed to working collaboratively to address our nation's water resource challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Adkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Adkins  
Executive Director/CEO  
The Council of State Governments