



December 6, 2024

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable David Rouzer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024

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

On behalf of Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), I write to express our strong support for urgent passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. PNWA supports keeping WRDA on a two-year schedule to ensure timely and consistent authorization of navigation projects and improvements to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policies. This bipartisan legislation consistently balances the needs of waterways, ports, and communities of all sizes across our nation and helps to modernize Corps policies and practices to ensure more efficient and safe movement of trade. The Pacific Northwest remains one of the most heavily trade dependent regions in our country. PNWA supports the economic development, maintenance of domestic agriculture and

other industries, bolstering of domestic manufacturing, ensuring navigation infrastructure resiliency, and shoring up supply chains that this legislation addresses.

PNWA has over 150 members, including ports, barge companies, steamship operators, grain elevator operators, agricultural producers, electric utilities, irrigation districts, and union labor throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Our association supports projects to advance and protect the region's navigation infrastructure, freight mobility, economic health, and the environment. We support the region's multi-modal transportation system, which provides safe, efficient, and reliable links to competitive domestic and world markets.

We understand the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have been negotiating in good faith to address Corps policies and projects and have reached an agreement on a WRDA bill in a commendable bi-partisan fashion. The legislation was carefully crafted to avoid controversial provisions and to provide some directives and flexibility to the Corps to address resiliency of infrastructure to protect life, property, and important Federal investments and assets. We appreciate the effort to engage stakeholders, seek compromise, and communication throughout the development of this legislation.

PNWA reiterates our concern about potential conflicts which could arise from adding water supply and water conservation as primary missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers alongside navigation, flood control, and ecosystem restoration. However, it is hoped that if conflicts come to fruition, that the Committees and leadership will engage stakeholders and evaluate options to address those issues in subsequent WRDA bills.

PNWA supports the WRDA 2024 conference bill and believes it will be beneficial for both the Pacific Northwest and our members. The bill addresses all key requests for which PNWA advocated and we encourage Congress to pass this legislation. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support and leadership of our Congressional delegation, particularly Senators Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, and Jim Risch, and Ranking Member Rick Larsen for ensuring this bipartisan legislation protects and promotes waterways, ports, and economic development in our region.

PNWA looks forward to continuing as a partner in keeping navigation infrastructure well-maintained to protect U.S. jobs and foster economic development in both urban and rural communities. PNWA and our members appreciate your consideration and ask for prioritization of passage of this legislation before Congress adjourns. If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Dena Horton, PNWA Government Deputy Director at dena.horton@pnwa.net.

Sincerely,



Neil Maunu
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

CC: The Honorable Charles Schumer (D, NY)
The Honorable Mitch McConnell (R, KY)
The Honorable Mike Johnson (R, LA-4)
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (D, NY-8)