

February 2, 2022

DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022

Dear Colleague:

The *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) is a comprehensive water resources development law successfully enacted, on a bipartisan basis, in each of the last four Congresses. Specifically, *WRDA* authorizes studies and projects within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works mission areas, including navigation, flood damage reduction, hurricane and storm damage reduction, shoreline protection, and ecosystem restoration. Through *WRDA* legislation, Congress also provides the Corps with authority to address water supply needs to cities, agriculture, and industry, to aid in the production of hydropower, to manage a national recreation program, and to address local environmental infrastructure needs. Biennial enactment of *WRDA* also provides Congress with a regular opportunity to oversee Corps policy on the development and implementation of Corps studies and projects.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will again use an online portal for submitting congressional requests for consideration in the upcoming *WRDA 2022*. **As of February 2, 2022, the online portal is open to every Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.**

In addition, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment is planning to hold a Member Day hearing on *WRDA 2022* requests on March 16, 2022.

The online portal uses a dedicated Microsoft SharePoint site and can be accessed through the following link: <https://ushouse.sharepoint.com/sites/TransportationD/MyOffice/Water/>

Here is some initial information on use of the online portal:

- The portal utilizes SharePoint and PowerApps, which should be available to all House staff. If you are having issues accessing the portal, please contact the committee (emails below).
- The portal can only be accessed by devices connected to the House intranet [including devices linked through a House-provided virtual private network (VPN)].
- Your requests are only viewable by you and committee staff.
- Once you “submit” an individual request, that request is “locked” and cannot be edited unless the committee “unlocks” it for you. Therefore, please utilize the “save” function for individual requests until they are finalized.
 - If you need to unlock a request, please contact the committee or send an email to transportrequests@mail.house.gov.
- As in prior Congresses, *WRDA 2022* will focus exclusively on activities within the scope of the Corps. The committee will not consider requests for programs or activities outside of the Corps’ Civil Works missions for inclusion in *WRDA 2022*.
- In the 117th Congress, Members will be able to request new authority (or modify existing authority) for environmental infrastructure projects (i.e., water supply and wastewater infrastructure). However, requests for environmental infrastructure authority will require submission to the committee (via the online portal) of a written certification that the

requesting Member has no financial interest in the project. Directions and an example of the certification letter are included in the instructions (linked below).

- Please rank your requests in numeric order of priority (with 1 being the highest priority request) in the appropriate field.
- In the 117th Congress, Members will be able to designate requests as coming from multiple offices; please coordinate with other Member offices before submitting a joint request.
- The last day to submit a request for *WRDA 2022* will be **Friday, February 25, 2022**.

Detailed instructions on how to submit a request to the online portal are included on our website (<https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/issue/water-resources-development-act-of-2022>) and a copy of these instructions will be posted within the portal.

For general questions, please contact Ryan Lehman with the Majority staff (Ryan.Lehman@mail.house.gov), or Nick Christensen with the Minority staff (Nick.Christensen@mail.house.gov).

For problems accessing the online portal, please contact Larry Whittaker (Larry.Whittaker@mail.house.gov).

Should you have any questions regarding the *WRDA* process or the upcoming *WRDA* Member Day hearing, contact the Subcommittee Majority staff at (202) 225-0060 or the Minority staff at (202) 225-4360.

In addition, please visit the Committee's *WRDA 2022* website at <https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/issue/water-resources-development-act-of-2022> for more information on past *WRDA* legislation, Corps reports, and updates on the *WRDA 2022* development process.

Sincerely,

Peter A. DeFazio
Chair

Sam Graves
Ranking Member

Grace F. Napolitano
Chair
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment

David Rouzer
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment