



The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2022

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the Association of National Estuary Programs I am writing to strongly urge you to approve the Water Resources Development Act this year before adjournment.

The National Estuary Program, a front-line program that works in and with coastal communities to address major issues such as coastal flooding, harmful algae blooms, wetland loss, declines in water quality, etc., depends on partners such as the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake projects to protect our ports, homes, businesses and restore and protect national ecological treasures.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is essential to everyday American life. That's because projects enacted by WRDA are critical to our ports, harbor protect our homes, businesses, and families; *and* restore and protect national ecological treasures.

By protecting local ecosystems, we also protect local economies. Provisions in WRDA 2022 help detect, treat, and prevent harmful algal blooms as well as provide guidance for managing invasive species. This in turn helps protect tourism, recreation, fishing, and other staples of coastal economies.

Working in tandem with comprehensive plans developed by the National Estuary Program, WRDA 2022 enables critical investments in the protection and restoration of shorelines and riverbanks from erosion and other damaging forces. The bill authorizes the Corps to modify

shore protection projects during the performance of emergency restoration activities to increase resiliency. The bill streamlines the implementation of shoreline protection and restoration projects to aid communities most vulnerable to coastal storms. The bill enables communities to partner with the Corps to develop water resources projects that directly address risks of extreme weather. The bill supports the ability of states and localities to plan for, and respond to, water resources challenges.

Passage of this bill has been highly bipartisan and benefits coastal communities along every coast. We urge you to pass this bill this year.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you again for your leadership on this critical issue.

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