



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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December 7, 2020

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), including the thousands employed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), we are writing regarding this week's House consideration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 (S. 1811). IFPTE applauds Chairmen DeFazio and Barrasso and Ranking Members Graves and Carper for crafting this bipartisan bill to authorize the important work of the USACE over the next two years.

First and foremost, this is a jobs bill that will maintain and create tens of thousands of jobs to support and maintain America's water infrastructure needs. The legislation authorizes much needed USACE water infrastructure projects, including along our rivers, intercoastal waterways, ports and harbors, while providing certainty to taxpayers and business alike as to the cohesive navigability of our inland waterways.

IFPTE is particularly pleased that WRDA authorizers resisted calls to revert back to a 50/50 cost share practice by agreeing to the inclusion of a 65/35 General Fund/Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) cost-share provision. According to The Waterways Council, of which IFPTE is a member, "reverting to the 50/50 cost share would allow only six projects to be funded to completion in 10 years, and 13 in 20 years, leaving 12 unfinished." The 65/35 cost share arrangement as adopted in this final House/Senate WRDA bill will allow for the completion of more projects over a shorter period of time, which is good for our nation, our commerce, and will protect and create jobs. While we were hopeful that this cost share arrangement would be a permanent one, we are nonetheless pleased with the healthy ten-year sunset provision included in the bill.

IFPTE believes that S. 1811 will provide even more stability for the critical inland waterways, ports and harbor projects, and, simply put, will continue to be a strong engine of job creation. As such, we urge you to vote YES on S. 1811, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,
President

Matthew Biggs,
Secretary-Treasurer/
Legislative Director