



December 1, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy,

On behalf of the Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD), I am writing to express strong support for final passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA). MCDD applauds the bipartisan spirit in which this legislation was crafted and the overwhelming congressional support this legislation received in the US House of Representative and the US Senate over the summer.

For the greater Portland region, this legislation represents a critical step in reducing flood risk along the Columbia River corridor and we applaud the inclusion of a construction authorization for the Portland Metro Levee System Project, OR. In February of this year, I was privileged to testify before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. As I shared with the Committee then, and it bears repeating today, the Portland Metro Levee System is our region's first line of defense in reducing flood risks along the second largest river in the nation. This project is an urgent need for the greater Portland region, the Pacific Northwest, and the nation. All told 42,000 people, 59,000 jobs, \$16 billion in annual economic activity, 2,000 acres of parks and natural areas, two airports, three interstate highways, multiple transit and rail lines, regional electricity transmission facilities, back up drinking water wells, a new US Postal Service processing center, and a US Air National Guard base are counting on our partnership with the federal government to secure a more resilient future.

We are proud of the ongoing partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and are eager to see the project's Chief's Report authorized in the final the WRDA 2022 bill. We respectfully request your support in ensuring that WRDA maintains its bi-annual schedule.

Sincerely,



Jim Middaugh
Executive Director
Multnomah County Drainage District

Cc: The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chair, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden, US Senate
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, US Senate
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Cliff Bentz, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Kurt Schrader, US House of Representatives

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Final Audit Report

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