



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



December 8, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, we encourage you to take up and quickly pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA). Maintaining a strong water infrastructure system and supporting the nation's economic growth of global competitiveness is more important than ever as the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our members recognize the substantial benefits provided to the nation by our water resources and hope for the swift passage of this bipartisan WRDA bill before the end of the year to maintain the two-year authorization schedule.

We applaud the bipartisan work of both the Senate Environment and Public Works and the House Transportation and Infrastructure committees to develop legislation that contains many of the provisions and priorities that our organizations have identified as important including:

**Biennial Authorization**

WRDA is critical to protect, maintain and further develop our water infrastructure systems including ports and waterways. It provides local governments with added stability and certainty to meet water infrastructure needs while supporting our communities' the safety, environmental protection and economic development. Following a seven-year gap in the passage of WRDA, Congress has been able to enact on a bipartisan basis all subsequent WRDAs – the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN), the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) and the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

## **Maintenance and Modernization of our Nation's Ports and Harbors**

We were pleased that WRDA 2022 provides needed resources for maintenance dredging activities. We continue to encourage Congress to appropriate the maximum amount of allowable funds, making them available immediately to increase investment in our nation's economy and infrastructure and to create and sustain U.S. jobs, maximizing the capability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During this time of economic uncertainty, we must ensure our nation's ports remain globally competitive and use the resources necessary for expansion, modernization and repair. Continued encouragement and support of the beneficial use of dredged material will also be essential for meeting economic and environmental goals.

## **Flooding Mitigation and Resilience**

We support WRDA 2022's efforts to provide the necessary aid to states and local governments to ensure they have the capabilities to mitigate potential flood and storm damage, including natural infrastructure and dam safety initiatives. As severe weather events become more commonplace, our members and their constituents ask for a strong federal partner and adequate funding to make our communities and our nation's infrastructure more resilient for the long-term.

We applaud the work that the Committees have accomplished with WRDA 2022 and urge that it be passed to ensure that the safety and modernization of our nation's water infrastructure remains a top national priority. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff: Sarah Gimont (NACo) at 202-942-4254 or [sgimont@naco.org](mailto:sgimont@naco.org); Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at 202-626-3101; or [Berndt@nlc.org](mailto:Berndt@nlc.org); Judy Sheahan (USCM) at 202-355-8540 or [jsheahan@usmayors.org](mailto:jsheahan@usmayors.org).

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The United States Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
National League of Cities



Matthew D. Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties

cc:

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure