



December 2, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our 1.6 million members and supporters, we thank you for keeping another bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) on track for completion after another two-year cycle. We are glad Congress is moving WRDA forward because it includes many provisions that improve the resiliency of Army Corps projects that protect our communities from extreme weather and climate change.

The WRDA agreement as part of H.R. 7776 continues to focus the work of the Army Corps on preparing the areas around coastal and river parks for extreme weather, restoring these landscapes and making them and nearby communities more resilient. The legislation prepares the Army Corps to play its critical role in protecting coastal and riverine areas from climate-enhanced flooding and storms. The benefits to national park landscapes are many, including more resilient and safer beaches, new or restored habitat for wildlife, improved water quality for drinking and outdoor recreation, and protection for people from flooding, sea level rise and storm surge.

In particular, NPCA appreciates that this bill:

- Elevates coastal and riverine resiliency and restoration in the face of climate change as a primary mission of the Army Corps
- Encourages the Army Corps to support holistic evaluations of flood and storm risk reduction projects and projects that address water supply, conservation and drought
- Promotes the development and repair of projects with resilient measures like restoring mangrove forests, protecting coastal wetlands or repairing oyster reefs near places like Everglades National Park or Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Supports vulnerable coastal communities hit hardest by climate change by allowing the Army Corps to lower the non-federal costs for these partners to make it easier and more affordable for them to undertake coastal resiliency work

Headquarters
777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001
P 202.NAT.PARK | 800.628.7275

[NPCA.org](https://www.nps.org)

In addition to these changes, the bill supports projects important to NPCA, including for the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, New York and New Jersey harbor, Mississippi River, and Cape Cod.

Since 1919, NPCA has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. The Army Corps is an important partner in many places where we work to protect and restore national park waterways and landscapes, the communities that surround them, and the millions of people who visit them each year. From Gateway to Grand Canyon, Everglades to Olympic, water is central to the features, wildlife, recreation and aesthetic of these esteemed places. However, the natural, cultural and historic resources in national parks, once viewed as isolated and remote, are affected by activities occurring in their watersheds. These beyond park boundary activities often enhance or detract from the visitor experience.

Thank you for keeping WRDA on its two-year cycle. We look forward to the completion of another bipartisan bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact Chad Lord, our senior director for environment and climate policy, with questions. He can be reached at 202.257.4365 or clord@npca.org.

Sincerely,

Kristen Brengel
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Thomas Carper
The Honorable Sam Graves
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito