

# COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION



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December 7, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) strongly supports the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and the continued commitment of Congress to passing this important legislation on a biennial basis.

Since 1970, CSO has served as the collective voice for the nation's coastal states, commonwealths, and territories on federal legislative, administrative, and policy issues relating to coastal, Great Lakes, and ocean management. CSO members – the state and territory coastal management programs – partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), NOAA, other federal agencies, coastal communities, tribal governments, and industry for the safe and effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone.

CSO commends Congress in developing a robust 2022 WRDA that supports increased USACE capabilities to address coastal enhancement, restoration, and resilience. Across the country, coastal communities are facing emerging issues including flooding and erosion caused by sea level rise, increased coastal storm frequency, and other coastal hazards that threaten the lives and livelihoods. Many of the provisions in the 2022 WRDA will make significant strides to enable both USACE and local partners to better address these emerging coastal hazards and build coastal community resilience.

Specifically, we strongly support the enhanced authorities for shoreline protection and restoration, continued advancement of the use of natural and nature based infrastructure including the beneficial use of dredge material, and added authorities for USACE to comprehensively assess coastal flood risks in feasibility studies and to build back more resilient after natural disasters. We applaud the efforts of Congress to address the needs of disadvantaged communities through the legislation – ranging from increased technical assistance, to targeted programs to support Tribes, to reducing cost share requirements. These provisions will help to ensure all communities can access the critical services USACE provides. Similarly, expanding authority for advance payments in lieu of reimbursements for acquisitions, easements, and rights-of-way, and the use of other federal funds to meet the non-Federal share of studies and projects gives local sponsors increased flexibility and remove significant barriers to implementing studies and projects to address emerging coastal threats.

CSO applauds the leadership of the Committee on Environment and Public Works Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member

Graves in negotiating this impressive and impactful 2022 WRDA. We encourage your support in ensuring this important legislation is enacted in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Brockbank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derek" being more prominent than the last name "Brockbank".

Derek Brockbank  
Executive Director

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chair, Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives