



Support Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Reauthorization

The National Waterways Conference supports timely reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA legislation must recognize the vital importance of America's water resources infrastructure to our nation's well-being and quality of life, and balance economic and human needs with environmental and ecological considerations while ensuring public safety.

NWC Message:

- **The Water Resources Development Act Should Be Enacted on Schedule to Meet the Nation's Economic, Safety and Transportation Needs.** WRDA reaffirms the government's pledge to authorize, modify, and improve projects, programs, and policies protecting the nation from floods and keeping our waterways open to navigation. Regular authorizations of water resources development projects fulfill these important missions. Investments in infrastructure are long-term investments in the strength and security of the nation, and provide for tangible and long-lasting benefits to ensure the quality of life for our children and grandchildren far into the future. Accordingly, Congress must regularly authorize and invest in new water resources projects to secure our nation.
- **Water Resources Projects Grow the Economy.** Reliable, well-maintained water resources infrastructure is fundamental to America's economic and environmental well-being, and is essential to maintaining our nation's competitive position within the global economy. Our water resources infrastructure provides life-saving flood control, abundant water supplies, shore protection, water-based recreation, environmental restoration, and hydropower production, all essential to our economic well-being.
- **Waterways Transportation is the Safest, Most Energy-Efficient and Environmentally Sound Mode of Transportation.** With adequate maintenance and capital investment, our ports and waterways are the backbone of our transportation system—ensuring domestic and international trade opportunities and low-cost, environmentally sound movement of goods. The cost for transportation over inland waterways is two to three times lower than other modes of transportation, translating into an annual savings of \$7 billion for American businesses. More than 95 percent of U.S. imports and exports pass through the nation's harbors.
- **Water Resources Projects Undergo Unparalleled Economic and Environmental Review.** All projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undergo a thorough cost/benefit analysis which seeks to maximize net national economic development benefits, consistent with protecting the environment. The data show that the Corps is meeting its obligations and complying with the law.

Principles for Next WRDA Authorization:

- Ensure all annual revenues from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are to be used for the intended purpose, the proper maintenance of our ports and harbors, critical to America's global economic prominence.
- Enact a long-term funding solution for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to ensure the continued viability of the locks and dams critical to the environmentally sound transportation along our waterways.
- Adopt an integrated water resources management policy that promotes a balanced approach to long-term coordination and planning of water resources and water infrastructure, and encourages voluntary intergovernmental cooperation based on the fundamental notion of state and local leadership with Federal assistance.
- Guarantee balanced management of our nation's floodplains, rooted in the sound concept of net positive benefits and recognizing the critical need to provide projects that assure a safe water supply, protection from damaging floods, environmentally friendly transportation, and abundant food and energy supplies.
- Make Section 214 regulatory funding authority permanent. Section 214 allows ports and other non-federal government entities to partner with the Corps of Engineers to deliver vital infrastructure and ecosystem restoration projects in a more timely and cost-effective manner.
- Provide that all policy and procedural provisions adopted in 2007 WRDA are implemented and measured before enacting additional policies affecting how water resources projects are developed. NWC supports a Civil Works program that is empowered to develop all water management alternatives and illuminate them on economic and environmental contributions as well as how they fit into each community's particular needs.



The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is dedicated to a greater understanding of the widespread public benefits of our nation's water resources infrastructure. Our mission is to effect common sense policies and programs, recognizing the public value of our nation's water resources and their contribution to public safety, a competitive economy, national security, environmental quality and energy conservation. Conference membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water districts, engineering consultants, and state and local governments. www.waterways.org