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U.S. Senate

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Committee on Environment
and Public Works

Washington, D.C.

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BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

United States Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Washington, D.C.

The committee, met, pursuant to notice, at 9:47 a.m. in room 406, Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Honorable Thomas R. Carper [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Senators Carper, Capito, Cardin, Whitehouse, Merkley, Markey, Duckworth, Stabenow, Kelly, Padilla, Inhofe, Cramer, Boozman, Ernst.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Senator Carper. I am going to go ahead and call the committee to order. Good morning, everyone.

I don't know if anybody ever watched any Star Wars movies. My sister and I grew up on them. Somebody reminded me that, what is today's date? May the fourth be with you. They wanted me to wear this. I am not going to wear this, but I will hold it up so that I can keep them off of my back.

[Laughter.]

Senator Capito. Fortunately, the force is with this committee more often than not. Shelley and I were just talking about what a joy it is. Today, we have the opportunity to do the people's work, as we have been doing for a number of years. I just want to say just a really special thank you to our staff. We get the credit for legislation like this, but our staffs work very, very hard, and together, we are grateful to them on both sides of the aisle.

We don't get to mark up major infrastructure legislation every day, and that we could do it this day, although we do it a lot.

This morning, we are going to vote on the nomination of Benny Wagner to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority. We are also going to be voting on six General

Services Administration Resolutions. We will then markup the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, also known as WRDA.

Before we do, just a few words about our bipartisan work on this important piece of water resources legislation. The 2022 WRDA Bill is a result, literally, of months of bipartisan collaboration. I want to take a moment to thank Senators Capito, Cardin, Cramer, that is a lot of Cs, other members of our committee, and our staffs as well for the hard work in getting this legislation ready for consideration today.

WRDA 2022 embodies the bipartisan spirit of this committee and reflects our record of delivering critical investments and important policies for our Country and for all of our States on a regular basis. Our bill continues the two-year cycle for WRDA bills, ensuring timely Congressional authorization for the Army Corps studies and projects that support our economy, restore critical ecosystems, and protect our communities from extreme weather like flooding and like drought.

We are particularly proud that our legislation better equips the Army Corps to address the threat that climate change poses to our coastal communities. As I have highlighted for this committee before, more than 128 million people in our Country live in coastal counties. Think about that; 128 million people in our Country live in coastal counties. I am told that about half the Nation's population lives within 15 miles of one

of our coasts.

If our coastal counties were their own nation, they would rank third in the world in gross domestic product. Think about that; if coastal counties were their own nation, they would rank third in the world in gross domestic product, beaten only by China and by the U.S.

A recent report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projects that the threat of sea level rise will accelerate in the next 30 years without intervention by us and others. To address this, our legislation reestablishes the protection and restoration of shorelines and riverbanks from erosion and other damaging forces as a primary mission of the Army Corps.

Our bill also streamlines the implementation of shoreline and riverbank protection and restoration projects to aid the communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts, and just as significantly, it empowers communities to partner with the Corps to develop projects that directly address the impact of extreme weather, including drought.

As Senators Cramer, Lummis, Padilla, and Kelly can attest, western States continue to experience severe drought conditions. WRDA 2022 helps our western States by authorizing the Corps to do significant work to mitigate the impact of repetitive droughts and conserve water supplies.

Last, but certainly not least, WRDA 2022 prioritizes equity in the Corps' Civil Works Program. Our legislation establishes a new Tribal and Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee to advise the Corps on ways to more effectively deliver projects, programs, and other assistance to Tribal and other economically disadvantaged communities.

Our bill also extends the authorization for the Tribal Partnership Program through 2033, requires assistance to economically disadvantaged communities to be prioritized under the Corps' existing Planning Assistance to States Program, and authorizes a new Workforce Development and STEM Outreach Program at the Corps, with priority given to economically disadvantaged communities.

If you can't tell, I am pretty excited on this May 4th about our bipartisan package. I often say that bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. With that in mind, let me say again how proud I am to lead this committee with our Ranking Member, Senator Capito. I have worked very closely with Senator Cardin and Cramer and their staffs on this legislation. Your partnerships and leadership, folks, on this legislation helped us to get here today. In fact, without you and your staff, we wouldn't be here today.

Our committee has shown, yet again, that we can come together across the aisle to help meet the pressing water

infrastructure needs of the American people.

With that having been said, let me turn over to Ranking Member Senator Capito for her comments. Senator Capito?

[The prepared statement of Senator Carper follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, A UNITED STATES
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Capito. Thank you, Chairman Carper, for calling this business meeting and for your commitment to continuing our bipartisan efforts. I am very proud that we are here with our WRDA legislation today.

As we know, Congress authorizes water resources projects and sets National policies for the Civil Works Program of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The work of the Corps protects the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans and facilitates commerce throughout this Country and internationally. If you look at the different projects, you can see the vastness of our Nation just displayed throughout this bill.

Since 2014, Congress has enacted WRDA legislation every two years. Under our former chairman, we did this as well, and I am thrilled that we reached a bipartisan agreement to continue that tradition of addressing our Nation's water resources needs.

In addition to the Chairman, I also want to thank Senators Cardin and Cramer, we are the four Cs, which means commitment, for their leadership on the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Your support and partnership during this process was integral to reaching this solid agreement.

I would also like to thank your staff, Mr. Chairman, and in particular, your staff director, Mary Frances. I am just going

to go through the first names: John, Mayely, Tyler, Jordan, and Milo. Thank you all very much. On my side, I would like to thank Adam, my staff director, and also Murphy, Kim, Jacob, Katherine, and Max for their dedication and their long hours of work on this.

Today proves, again, the ability of this committee to develop bipartisan infrastructure legislation that addresses the needs of our members and the communities they represent.

True to the Corps' tradition, this bill moves forward projects that will benefit both local communities and the entire Country. For example, we are authorizing a significant project for coastal storm risk management on the coast of Texas that will ensure critical port assets can continue to serve our Country's shipping and supply chain needs moving forward. This project will help mitigate the worst impacts of hurricanes for local communities. It will also provide a vital corridor for our Nation's energy industry.

As this committee has heard during its oversight hearing on the Corps' response to Hurricane Ida, when constructed, these coastal projects work to prevent the worst effects of storms and storm damage.

While this bill is very much oriented towards advancing critical projects in our States, it also includes several policy changes that will help the Corps succeed better in its mission.

At the beginning of the process, I outlined some of the areas in which I believe change would be beneficial. I said we needed to ensure more effective delivery of projects and reduce the confusion that some of our communities have experienced in dealing with the Corps.

This bill includes several provisions that will improve flexibility with regard to financial accounting for projects. It requires reporting on timelines for the environmental review process for projects, and it authorizes, for the first time, a dedicated research and development account for the Corps to spur innovation and provides contracting flexibility in undertaking these activities.

It opens the black box of the Corps by bolstering the agency's technical assistance authorities and providing a new advisory committee for non-federal interests to voice their opinions on how the Corps can better meet their water resources needs. The input of non-federal interests of the Corps is critical. We have had testimony to that effect. We preserve the integral role of non-federal cost-share partners in the project delivery process by avoiding mandates from D.C.

In addition to my role as Ranking Member, I represent the great State of West Virginia, and I work to address several of the needs of my home State. I would share a few highlights. This legislation advances a critical flood control project in

the City of Milton, West Virginia. Authorized in the 1990s, this project is a long time coming, and I am proud to have helped forward it. The bill also supports flood control studies for the Kanawha River Basin and the City of Huntington, and it continues to provide environmental infrastructure assistance to communities throughout my State.

In closing, there is a lot in this bill for both sides of the aisle for communities across the Country. It is the culmination of a true bipartisan effort and represents our shared goal of addressing our Nation's water resources needs. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Today we are also voting, as you know, on GSA Resolutions and the nomination of Benny Wagner to serve as Inspector General of the TVA.

Thank you for your continued partnership, Chairman Carper, as we find ways to work together and get things done for our Country.

[The prepared statement of Senator Capito follows:]

Senator Carper. Thank you so much. Again, as you were calling out the names of the senior staff who worked on these bills, I just want to say, again, a special thanks to all of you.

I see that we have a quorum here present today. I want to thank everybody for making time to join us. The first item of business, I am going to call up Presidential Nomination 1250, Benny R. Wagner of Tennessee to be the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I move to approve and report the nomination favorably to the Senate. Is there a second?

Senator Capito. Second.

Senator Carper. It has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Senator Carper. Opposed, say nay.

[No audible response.]

Senator Carper. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the nomination is favorably reported. I note for the record that a quorum of the committee is present.

Next, I want to call up six resolutions relating to the General Services Administration. As members of this committee know, we routinely approve GSA prospectuses by committee resolution. The resolutions we consider today are for GSA leases throughout our Country. Members have had the opportunity

to review these documents, and I believe them to now be non-controversial.

Before we vote, Senator Cardin, would you like to say something?

Senator Cardin. Yes, just very briefly.

I am going to support all of the resolutions. As you know, I have been very concerned about GSA implementing our prospectus as it relates to the FBI consolidating facilities in the Washington region. I have been assured by GSA that, in regards to the Kentucky prospectus that is before us, there is no planning to relocate permanent personnel from the National Capital region. I have also been advised by the Appropriation Committee staff that there is no movement of personnel from the National Capital region envisioned in this prospectus, so therefore, I will support it.

Senator Carper. Thanks, thanks for that.

Anyone else wish to comment on any of the resolutions? If not, I would like to consider these six GSA resolutions en bloc and by voice vote. I move to report these items favorably. Is there a second?

Senator Capito. Second.

Senator Carper. It has been moved and seconded. All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Senator Carper. All opposed, say nay.

[No audible response.]

Senator Carper. The ayes have it, in the opinion of the chair. The ayes have it and the resolutions are approved. Again, I note for the record that a quorum of the committee is present.

Next, we are going to turn to consideration of WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This original bill has been developed with input from all members over the last five months. Let me say that again: with input from all members. Not just all members of this committee, but all members of the United States Senate.

I want to thank all members of the committee especially for the constructive engagement. I want to thank our colleagues who are not on this committee for being a part of the team that helped put this together. One of my favorite sayings is from the King Sisters, when I worked with my staff back in Delaware, I will think of it in a second. Teamwork. There we go. Teamwork makes the dream work. Isn't that great? Teamwork makes the dream work.

The original bill has been decided, again, with input from a lot of folks, including a lot of folks in this room and not in this room. I especially want to thank Senator Capito for her leadership and her staff. I want to thank Senator Cardin, him

and his team, and Senator Cramer, to you and your team in your role as Ranking Member on the subcommittee.

I think we have come together on legislation that we can be really proud of. I understand that two amendments have been filed by Senator Inhofe. Ranking Member Capito, Senator Cardin, Senator Cramer, and I all agree that Inhofe Amendment Number Two is acceptable. Therefore, I want to call up Senator Inhofe's Amendment Number Two and move that we adopt it by a voice vote. All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Senator Carper. All opposed, say nay.

[No audible response.]

Senator Carper. The ayes have it. In the chairman's view, the ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

I now move that the committee report the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 as amended. Before I ask for a second, let me just say to Senator Inhofe, you will be afforded the opportunity to speak about either of your amendments or both of them later on when we finish voting. Yes, when we finish.

You bit. Senator Stabenow?

Senator Stabenow. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say thank you to you and our Ranking Member. This is really important bill. I appreciate all the input from the Great Lakes States. I just want to tell you that, for those of us who care deeply

about 95 percent of their freshwater in the Country, which is in the Great Lakes, this has important policies to support our water, so thank you.

Senator Carper. Yes, thanks so much. Senator Whitehouse?

Senator Whitehouse. Thank you, Chairman, and thank you also to the Ranking Member.

I just wanted to flag that I have been a fairly persistent inquirer about the Army Corps so-called Coastal and Inland Flooding Account, which sometimes puts a dollar into inland flooding for every penny it puts into coastal flooding. So, for us coastal States, particularly ones looking at sea level rise and worse storm surges and all of that, that seems like a pretty unfair situation.

I just want to express my appreciation to the Chair and the Ranking Member for the agreement that is not in this bill, but that is part of the negotiating process that the committee will ask GAO for a proper report on this discrepancy, which runs between 20 to 1 and 100 to 1 year to year. I think it is high time we got rid of it.

Getting a good explanation of it is a good start, and getting the committee's support for that request moves it up the priority level at GAO, so that will help us try to address this discrepancy. I just wanted to express my gratitude. Thank you.

Senator Carper. Thank you for those words.

Anyone else want to comment before we get to voting? Okay.
Now, I am pleased to move that the committee report the Water
Resources Development Act of 2022 as amended. Is there a
second?

Senator Capito. Second.

Senator Carper. The clerk will now call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Boozman?

Senator Boozman. Yes.

The Clerk. Ms. Capito?

Senator Capito. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

Senator Cardin. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Cramer?

Senator Cramer. Aye.

The Clerk. Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Carper. She votes aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Ernst?

Senator Ernst. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Graham?

Senator Capito. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Inhofe?

Senator Inhofe. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Kelly?

Senator Kelly. Aye.

The Clerk. Ms. Lummis?

Senator Capito. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Markey?

Senator Markey. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Merkley?

Senator Carper. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Padilla?

Senator Padilla. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

Senator Carper. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Shelby?

Senator Capito. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

Senator Stabenow. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Sullivan?

Senator Capito. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Wicker?

Senator Capito. Aye by proxy.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

Senator Carper. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 20, the nays are zero.

Senator Carper. The yeas are, say that again, 20 to zero?
I like that.

The Clerk. The yeas are 20, the nays are zero.

Senator Carper. Yes. Senator Duckworth, would you like to cast your vote in person?

Senator Duckworth. I would, Mr. Chairman. Aye.

Senator Carper. Thanks so much. Well, we are united. We are 20 to zero. Twenty yeas, zero nays, and the legislation is favorably reported.

That concludes the committee's votes as part of the business meeting today. Teamwork does make the dream work. Mr. Kelly, did you wish? Let me just finish one, and I will just yield to you and Senator Inhofe.

That concludes our meeting today. These votes are a part of the business meeting. Again, I thank all the members for your participation.

I now recognize members that would like to speak on any of the filed amendments of the items that we have voted on today, starting with Senator Inhofe, and then to Senator Kelly.

Senator Cardin. Mr. Chairman, can I just interrupt for one second?

Senator Carper. Yes, sir, please.

Senator Cardin. I was going to give a lengthy statement thanking you for your great work, and Senator Capito for her

great work

Senator Carper. The gentleman is recognized.

[Laughter.]

Senator Cardin. But I will just put my statement in the record with your consent.

[The prepared statement of Senator Cardin follows:]

Senator Carper. Thank you so much, Ben. Thank you.

Senator Inhofe, please? Former member of our committee.
You have done a lot of these, haven't you?

Senator Inhofe. I am sorry?

Senator Carper. You have done a lot of these WRDA bills,
haven't you?

Senator Inhofe. Yes. I do want to comment on my Amendment
Number One, which is the Altus Project. If I can just, I need
to get this in the record, I would appreciate the attention of
our members.

I thank you, Chairman Carper, and Ranking Member Capito,
for your leadership on this committee and for your work on the
2022 WRDA Bill. Good job. It kind of demonstrates that we have
been doing this for a lot of years now, working together, as
opposed to working apart. I appreciate it.

I am proud to support the legislation which makes important
investments into civil works projects across Oklahoma and the
Nation. I offered an amendment that mirrors legislation that I
have introduced this Congress that amends the provision of the
2018 WRDA bill that directly affects Oklahoma. I might add, it
affects only Oklahoma.

In 2015, the Bureau of Reclamation identified costly
repairs needed to prevent the probability of failure and the
2018 WRDA bill included a provision that was intended to ensure

the dam and dike safety modifications cost be completely at the cost of the Federal Government. My amendment clarifies Congressional intent to ensure that the approximately \$40 million in dam and dike safety, modernizations, repairs required by the Bureau of Reclamation at the WC Austin Project in Altus are entirely federal as Congress intended in the 2018 WRDA Bill.

At that time, I believe, I might have been the chairman of this committee. I recognize my amendment is outside of EPA's jurisdiction, and I remain committed to continuing to work with ENR, Energy and Natural Resources, the Chairman mentioned, and the Ranking Member Barrasso, to advance this legislation before their committee. Because it has to go through their committee where the jurisdiction is to make this a reality.

My request to the Chair and the Ranking Member of this committee is that, as I work with the leadership of the NR Committee to advance this legislation, that you both work with me to get this needed provision into law, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Carper. Happy to do it. We understand the amendment is outside the jurisdiction of this committee, but it is appropriately before Energy and Natural Resources, and we will be pleased to try to be an enabler in that.

Senator Inhofe. Very good. Thank you.

Senator Carper. Thanks. Before I turn, Senator Inhofe has shared with all of us that he is going to be moving on toward

the end of the year. Well, we have got a lot of time between now and the end of the year.

Senator Inhofe. We do.

Senator Carper. A lot of good work to do. This is just one piece of it.

Senator Inhofe. Actually, until the third of January, so we have three extra days you don't know about.

[Laughter.]

Senator Carper. We will make every one of them count.

Senator Inhofe. Very good, very good. Thank you.

Senator Carper. Senator Kelly?

Senator Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for all the hard work on this bill. It is incredibly important for the State of Arizona. I do want to discuss a little bit about what is in here with regards to WRDA 2022.

As many folks know, Arizona is facing the worst drought conditions experienced along the Colorado River in more than 1,200 years. Last year, we saw a tier one shortage declared on the river prompting water cuts for users throughout the State. This year, we are in a real risk of water levels in Lake Powell falling so low that hydropower cannot be produced, risking not just water deliveries for the lower Colorado River Basin, but also depriving communities throughout the western United States of a reliable source of renewable energy.

If we don't act, we could see even more dire outcomes in years to come. It is critical that we have a whole-of-government response to the drought conditions in Arizona and throughout the Western United States.

We are taking a step forward with today's bill that ensures the Army Corps of Engineers can play a more significant role in responding to drought conditions and support several Arizona projects for the first time in their history, first time. Our bill gives the Army Corps the authority to address drought risk management and water supply conservation needs when planning, constructing, and operating water resources development projects and programs.

This is a big deal for Arizona. While the Army Corps already operates dams, reservoirs, and flood control structures in the State, the Corps does not have a permanent authority to plan or construct projects for the purpose of reducing drought risk.

Our bipartisan bill changes that. It is going to allow the Corps to ensure projects built or operated in Arizona help conserve our scarce water resources. These changes will allow the Army Corps to work alongside local sponsors in Arizona to construct new projects that will help Arizona store more of our scarce water. It will also help us improve our water conveyance infrastructure to find more ways to reduce water loss.

Importantly, the bill also reauthorizes the Tribal Partnership Program through 2033. This is used by the Corps to help fund water infrastructure improvements in Arizona's tribal communities. It also establishes a new, dedicated program focused on helping improve water storage and conservation efforts at dams and reservoirs in the western United States. It increases funding available for the Western Water Infrastructure program, which allows the Corps to support water infrastructure projects for small and rural communities throughout Arizona.

Since this program was created in the last WRDA, the Corps has already backed 20 projects across the State of Arizona, and this additional support will help us complete at least 75 additional projects.

This bill also honors our commitment to Arizona tribal communities by ensuring tribes can participate in the Corps' Abandoned and Inactive Non-Coal Mine Restoration Program without needing to meet a burdensome cost share. This will be a game changer for efforts to clean up the more than 500 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

Finally, the bill cuts through the red tape to ensure that the Army Corps projects in Flagstaff and along the Rio Salado in Phoenix can continue work without needing additional budgetary approvals. I was able to secure some language to make sure that the Corps expedites its completion of projects in the West

Valley, in Cave Creek, in Winslow, Eloy, Globe, Douglas, and where Gabby and I live in Tucson.

In closing, this bill delivers meaningful and important wins for Arizona, and I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Capito and all the members of the committee, for your leadership and partnership in crafting this important bipartisan bill. I yield back. Thank you.

Senator Carper. Thank you for that. That is an impressive list of accomplishments in this one bill for your State.

I just want to make sure I heard correctly what you said at the beginning of your comments. I wrote down, "the worst drought conditions in 1,200 years." For what part of your State, again?

Senator Kelly. So, for the western Part of the United States, so 1,200 years, we have not seen. The way we know this, Mr. Chairman, is we can look at tree rings. You can tell from taking a section of a tree. Some tree we have, they might not be standing anymore, but you can go back 1,200 years, and you can tell using the science what the moisture content of the ground was at the time.

This is the worst drought in 1,200 years. It has been going on for about 20 years, and it presents serious challenges. I don't know if you saw the latest on Lake Mead and Lake Powell levels, but we are going to have to potentially face some more

serious cuts.

Now, this bill and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that has eight billion dollars for western water infrastructure goes a long way towards getting us to solve this problem. I do believe we will engineer ourselves out of this. We have got the best engineers and scientists in the world, and we can address this. Thank you.

Senator Carper. You bet. A lot of times, we focus on, a lot of us are from coastal States on this committee and in the Senate, and we focus on sea level rise, which is a huge concern for us and for Delaware and throughout the East Coast, West Coast, the Gulf Coast. Senator Cassidy was saying just the other day in a meeting that you may have been a part of, that the State of Louisiana, they lose a piece of land the size of a football field every 100 minutes.

Senator Kelly. I believe he said they have also lost land the size of Delaware so far, due to sea level rise.

Senator Carper. That is huge. It is a timely reminder that it is not just the coastal States that have this concern, and that it is important that we need to not just address the symptoms of these problems, but also the root causes. Thank you for your standing up for Arizona.

We yield to Senator Cramer, please. Thank you so much for all your work and that of your staff. We are grateful.

Senator Cramer. Thank you, Chairman. It was interesting to listen to Senator Kelly's description of things in Arizona. I have learned a lot about the coastal States and your challenges from you, of course, Senator Whitehouse, who I thought was very modest when he said something like, some of you know I tend to question, I think he was --

Senator Carper. He was understating.

[Laughter.]

Senator Cramer. He was understating. I have learned a lot from you all.

But I think the whole bill and this committee is an example of the diversity of our great Country. It is a joy to work with you, Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito and Senator Cardin and the entire committee. This bill does serve as an exemplary example of what can be done when we work together, when we collaborate, and when we care about our Nation's water infrastructure and our land.

This legislation, for those of us in the west, prioritizes western States' water rights, and works towards better cooperation and better cooperative Federalism with the Corps of Engineers that was envisioned by our Nation's founders, of course, and the authors of the Flood Control Act of 1944.

It also focuses on recreation. The Corps doesn't oftentimes get credit for this, but the Corps is a significant

federal land management agency often overlooked to provide greater recreational opportunities for our constituents. This bill gives the flexibility to the local jurisdictions for the Corps to make repairs quicker, to provide improved recreational access while requiring the Corps to outline a plan for future use of these resources.

It also provides increased funding levels for water and wastewater programs utilized and sought after by the small towns throughout North Dakota and throughout the entire Country. In a number of instances, I, along with a number of you all and my colleagues, I take this once every two-year opportunity to provide the Corps Congressional direction on matters that are important to our constituents, including entering into an agreement with the Red River Valley Water Supply Project manager to ensure that water supply from the projects reaches its beneficial users and providing the necessary hydrologic analysis to protect our flood control interests in the Souris River Basin.

I want to extend my gratitude to the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, and other stakeholders for their invaluable input throughout this process helping deliver wins for our State and for all of our States.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on

another job well done.

Senator Carper. Thank you so much, and thanks again for your invaluable help.

As my colleagues know, I go back and forth to Delaware almost every night on the train. I come back in the morning. This morning, I was running a little bit late and made a train and got on the train, and somebody said to me, do you go back and forth every night? I said, well, just about. This person said to me, I wouldn't want your job for all the tea in China.

I said, believe it or not, I really love what I do. He said, why? You guys just fight and never get anything done. I said, I wish you could come with me today and see what a committee where people work together, members, staff, what we can get done for 50 States with input from all 50 States. It would be a refreshing and encouraging thing to watch.

I am just glad that we have the opportunity to set a good example. We have done that with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. We do it with all kinds of legislation. The idea of reporting out something this expansive, this beneficial, again, with a bipartisan unanimous vote, is just, for me, it is very rewarding and satisfying.

I want to say again to Mary Frances Repko, our staff director, to Adam, every member of our team, especially John Kane, who leads our Water Team on the Democrat side, just great

work, great work. It is not done, but we are well on our way, and look forward to getting this ball not just in the red zone, but in the end zone.

Anybody else? With that, some final housekeeping. Thanks, Mary Frances.

I want to ask unanimous consent to submit for the record letters of support and other items considering the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. I also ask unanimous consent that the staff have authority to make technical and conforming changes to each of the matters approved today.

[The referenced information follows:]

Senator Carper. Again, my thanks to everyone for your participation in this business meeting. And, in the spirit of Star Wars, may the fourth and the force be with you. In the words of the King Sisters, teamwork does make the dream work.

I think, with that, are we done? Is it a wrap? It is a wrap. Thanks, everyone.

[Whereupon, at 10:21 a.m., the business meeting was concluded.]