

# West Virginia Wins

in the

## Water Resources Development Act of 2024



### Supporting Flood Control and Prevention Efforts, Ecosystem Restoration

- **Addresses the needs of areas harmed by the 2016 flood:** adjusts the cost-share for any future projects in West Virginia that are identified by the feasibility study for flood risk management in the Kanawha River Basin.
- Increases the maximum amount of funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may contribute to small projects for emergency streambank and shoreline protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and the removal of obstructions or debris to rivers and channels.
- Urges the Corps to expedite completion of studies/projects in:
  - **Upper Guyandotte River Basin:** feasibility study for flood risk management
  - **Kanawha River Basin:** feasibility study for flood risk management
  - **Milton, WV:** project for flood control
  - **Hinton, WV – Bluestone Dam:** project for dam safety modifications

### Enhancing Assistance for Environmental Infrastructure Projects

- Increases the authorized funding level for the Corps' Section 340 and Section 571 environmental infrastructure programs, which support **drinking water and wastewater projects across the state of West Virginia**, and adjusts the cost-share for projects in West Virginia communities that are carried out under these programs.
- Establishes a **new authority for the Corps to partner with communities in WV, OH, and PA** to restore rivers and streams that have been impacted by acid mine drainage.

### Strengthening the Corps' Authorities to Address Water Resources Needs

- Improves the Corps' outreach and education efforts to communities, including those in West Virginia, that are facing water resources challenges.
- **Expands the Corps' ability to partner with West Virginia University** to conduct academic research on water resources issues critical to West Virginia.
- Modernizes the Corps' ability to pay authority to **account for the different needs of communities across West Virginia** and the nation.
- Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a review of and prepare a report to Congress on the Corps':
  - Efforts to accelerate feasibility studies by implementing the environmental review provisions in the Fiscal Responsibility Act and other existing Corps authorities.
  - Project partnership agreements for water resources development projects, emphasizing the indemnification clause and long-term Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation Responsibilities of the non-federal interest included in those agreements.
  - Project cost estimates for completed and ongoing water resources development projects to improve fiscal responsibility and transparency in cost estimates for non-federal interests.