



September 13, 2018

**Board of Directors**

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**Steve Dubiel**  
EarthCorps

The Honorable John Barrasso,  
Chair, Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate

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**Todd Miller**  
North Carolina Coastal  
Federation

The Honorable Tom Carper,  
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate

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**Robert Stokes**  
Galveston Bay Foundation

The Honorable Bill Shuster,  
Chair, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Secretary**

**Kimberly Davis Reyher**  
Coalition to Restore  
Coastal Louisiana

The Honorable Peter DeFazio,  
Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Will Baker**

Chesapeake Bay  
Foundation

Dear Chairmen Barrasso & Shuster, Ranking Members Carper & DeFazio:

**Peter Clark**

Tampa Bay Watch

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is pleased to support Title I of *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*. Passing a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) every congress allows our nation's coastal communities to consistently and predictably invest in the critical natural infrastructure, such as beaches, dunes and wetlands, that keep them protected from flooding, storms and hurricanes.

**Tim Dillingham**

American Littoral Society

**Curt Johnson**

Save the Sound - Long  
Island Sound

By authorizing project construction and studies, and by setting policy for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), WRDA is essential for effective management of our coastlines and to increase coastal resilience across the United States. **We urge Congress to pass this critical legislation as soon as possible.**

**David Lewis**

Save The Bay - San  
Francisco

RAE specifically supports:

**Jonathan F. Stone**

Save The Bay -  
Narragansett Bay

1. **Section 1102, "Study Of The Future Of The United States Army Corps Of Engineers"; Section 1103, "Study On Economic And Budgetary Analyses"; and, Section 1204, "GAO Study On Benefit-Cost Analysis Reforms."** These studies will review and provide recommendations for how USACE functions, how it budgets projects and engages the public, and how projects are valued. The inclusion of a National Academies study to look at, *"the ability of the Corps of Engineers to carry out its statutory missions and responsibilities"* is vital in assuring the United States continues to receive the best possible water resources services and the best available science and technology support. A National Academies study that examines *"the economic principles and analytical methodologies currently used by or applied to the Corps of Engineers to formulate, evaluate, and budget for water resources development projects"* will help ensure USACE budgets and uses taxpayer dollars wisely and transparently.

**Jeff Benoit**

**President and CEO**  
Restore America's  
Estuaries

The “*study on the benefit-cost procedures of the Secretary and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget*” will help ensure that water resource projects are being appropriately valued for the variety of benefits they provide, and the United States is investing in projects that provide the greatest benefits for the least cost.

2. **Section 1148, “Inclusion Of Alternative Measures...”** This section requires consideration of natural infrastructure in flood risk management and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project feasibility reports.”
3. **Sections 1148 and 1130, “Beneficial Use of Dredged Material.”** These sections increase the number of authorized pilot projects for the beneficial use of dredged material from 10 to 20 (originally authorized in WRDA 2016) and ease restrictions on private landowners ability to accept a one-time nourishment through USACE’s continuing authorities program (CAP) 204, “Regional Sediment Management.” These sections support the nation’s ongoing need to use dredged sediment as a resource, rather than disposing of it as a waste product.
4. **Section 1112, “Hurricane And Storm Damage Protection Program,”** which authorizes \$75 million to contract multiple hurricane and storm damage protection beach projects across state and USACE district boundaries with a single contract. By bundling projects along a shoreline, construction costs can be reduced due to minimizing dredging mobilization/de-mobilization costs and coordinated planning and permitting.

RAE looks forward to working with your committees to ensure passage of the *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018* in the coming weeks, and working with you over the coming years to continue to improve our nation’s water infrastructure, in particular our natural coastal infrastructure, such as beaches, dunes and wetlands.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Benoit  
President & CEO