



**THOMAS R. CARPER**

**WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT of 2024**

The bipartisan Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) studies, projects and programs across the country. This legislation continues the two-year authorization cycle for WRDA legislation. Through its civil works mission, the Corps assists in the construction and maintenance of ports, inland waterways and other critical infrastructure essential to economic growth, the movement of goods throughout the country, and supporting trade beyond our borders. The Corps' vital flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration programs also help protect life safety and properties and make our communities more resilient and sustainable.

WRDA 2024 authorizes more than 200 feasibility studies and 22 new or modified construction projects. This bill directs the Corps to expedite the completion of several ongoing studies and projects. The bill also creates and modifies certain environmental infrastructure authorities of the Corps to address water and wastewater infrastructure needs in communities across the country.

***WRDA 2024 compels better use of existing authorities provided in prior WRDAs by:***

- Directing the Corps to develop and execute a plan to fully implement past WRDAs, including the creation of a WRDA implementation team to coordinate and share information across Corps' districts, divisions and headquarters;
- Expediting completion of guidance and reports required in past WRDAs; and
- Modernizing the Corps' existing "ability to pay" authorities to help certain communities and clarifying the Corps' "federal interest determinations" authority to advance feasibility studies.



***WRDA 2024 increases transparency and improves outreach and coordination with non-federal interests by:***

- Directing the Corps to educate non-federal interests about operations, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) responsibilities;
- Ensuring timely updates to the Corps' online "permit finder" that provides the status of certain permits for projects;
- Requiring reports on invasive species, levee safety guidelines, public-private partnerships, tribal land valuation, and more; and
- Directing the Government Accountability Office to carry out studies to evaluate the Corps' activities, practices and programs, including the Corps' project partnership agreements and cost estimates for projects.

***WRDA 2024 strengthens the Corps' ability to address the diverse needs of communities by:***

- Increasing the maximum amount of funds the Corps may contribute to a project under the existing continuing authorities programs;
- Modernizing the 3x3x3 policy for feasibility studies to account for more complex water resources needs;
- Improving the Corps' authorities to partner with Tribes, including by making the Tribal Partnership Program permanent;
- Increasing the depth that ports and harbors can receive federal funding for construction projects as well as operations and maintenance projects; and
- Increasing the federal cost-share for inland waterway projects to 75 percent.