DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM H. "BUTCH" GRAHAM, JR.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

BEFORE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON

OVERSIGHT OF THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with Mr. Adam Telle, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, in regard to oversight of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works program and implementation of Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs). I look forward to continuing to work with this committee, the Congress, and the Administration to help address the Nation's water resources challenges.

Through the Civil Works Program, the Corps works with other Federal agencies, and with state, Tribal, and local agencies and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides high economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

The authorizations and funding provided to the Corps by Congress allow us to advance our three main missions of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, as well as support related project purposes, such as water supply, hydropower, and recreation. The Civil Works program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within these three main mission areas. The Corps uses its engineering expertise and relationships with project sponsors and other stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to address some of the most pressing water resources challenges facing the Nation. Since 2014, the Congress has passed a WRDA bill every two years to address evolving water resources issues.

The WRDA of 2024 advances the Corps principal Civil Works missions by authorizing new navigation, flood risk management, coastal storm risk management, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects and studies across the country. The legislation reinforces the Corps' partnership with non-federal sponsors by reauthorizing and refining existing programs, while introducing new tools to enhance coordination with non-federal partners, improve project delivery, and address evolving national priorities. WRDA 2024 also formalizes the creation of an implementation planning team to track the status of implementation of prior WRDAs.

To promote long-term infrastructure resilience and to support coastal and riverine communities, WRDA 2024 provides expanded authority for forecast-informed reservoir operations and supports beneficial use of dredged material for shoreline restoration and flood risk reduction. It also authorizes recurring coastal mapping activities to ensure timely data for navigation safety and storm preparedness. Across all mission areas, WRDA 2024 includes provisions to streamline project implementation, facilitate crediting

for non-federal contributions such as technical models, and improve transparency in project prioritization, strengthening the Corps ability to deliver safe, high-quality water resources infrastructure that supports both local communities and national economic interests.

My top priorities include identifying the highest priority potential investments for the Army Civil Works Program, starting with the maintenance of our existing infrastructure, and ensuring that we deliver studies and finish quality projects safely, on time, and within budget. I remain focused on implementing strategies to enhance project delivery efficiency and cost predictability. By strengthening feasibility study and preconstruction engineering and design (PED) requirements, and by using risk management principles, the Corps is working to improve cost and schedule accuracy. Increased industry engagement, including early contractor involvement and market research initiatives, is helping to align expectations and ensure more competitive bids.

A sustainable Civil Works program requires effective project delivery methods, and strong partnerships with federal, state, Tribal, and local stakeholders. By enhancing early-stage project development, and proactively managing risks, the Corps is working to ensure that its infrastructure investments will continue to provide the greatest return on investment to the Nation at a reasonable cost. These priorities will ensure a better return on taxpayer investment and improve the lives of all Americans.

Thank you, Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you or other Members of the Committee may have.