



Water and Waterways Infrastructure

Background:

Water and waterways infrastructure programs foster economic development, facilitate trade and commerce, aid international competitiveness, stimulate employment, provide water recreation opportunities, enhance agricultural and industrial productivity, and augment our national defense. Historically, such programs have had numerous benefits: flood damage reduction projects alone have prevented an estimated \$706 billion in damages, an eight-to-one return on the Federal government's investment.

Key Points:

- *Reauthorize and Fully Fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs).* These funds, while woefully underfunded, are essential programs that provide communities with the ability to leverage federal dollars to fund essential water and wastewater sewer projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis* found a \$540 billion gap between current spending and projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure (combined) over 20 years. Public studies conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) have similarly estimated the nation's water infrastructure needs \$600 billion over a 20-year period to meet the standards of the Clean Water and Safe Water Drinking Acts.
- *Restore Funding to the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds.* Congress must reverse course and fully fund the SRF programs to ensure consistency to give communities the ability to leverage federal dollars and plan capital improvements in order to ensure public health, safety and environmental quality.
- *Regular Waterways Authorizations Help Meet the Nation's Economic, Safety and Transportation Needs.* The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reaffirms the government's pledge to authorize, modify, and improve projects, programs, and policies protecting the nation from floods and keeping our waterways open to navigation. Regular authorizations of water resources development projects fulfill these important missions. Failure to properly invest in flood protection efforts, which have been underway since the late 1800's, would leave hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses and other critical infrastructure vulnerable to devastating floodwaters.

NECA Asks:

- Congress should ensure major infrastructure legislation authorizes new Army Corps of Engineers projects to address flood control, navigation, and water supply projects. Legislation should also increase funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

- Make passage of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2018* a priority.
- Co-sponsor the *Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2017* (H.R. 1647) by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), John Duncan (R-TN), and Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
- Co-sponsor the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Reauthorization Act of 2017* (H.R.4492/S.2329) by Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL).

Sponsors:

Five total sponsors (3 Democrats, 2 Republicans)

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- Co-sponsor the *Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act* (SRF WIN Act) (H.R.4902/S.2364) by Rep. John Katko (R-NY).

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- Co-sponsor the *Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act of 2017* (H.R. 3009) by Rep. John Duncan (R-TN)

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