



Nor'wester newsletter

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House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee releases WRDA 2018

PNWA is pleased to report that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) has released their [2018 Water Resources Development Act](#). Provisions of interest to PNWA members include:

- Full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF). The bill includes an approach based off of H.R.1908, [Rep. Peter DeFazio's HMTF legislation](#) which would provide all collections directly to the Corps for operations and maintenance of deep draft and coastal navigation projects.
- Authorization of a feasibility study to examine Tacoma Harbor deepening.
- A number of studies and reports related to administration and management of the Corps, and how the agency prioritizes and oversees projects. This includes a study on the future of the Corps, focused on evaluating the ability of the Corps to carry out their mission, improvements to the project delivery process, and the effects of moving the agency out of the Department of Defense. PNWA has historically opposed the concept of moving the Corps from DOD jurisdiction or breaking apart the Corps over several other agencies.

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Additional details released for FY2019 House Energy & Water bill

- A report on the backlog of Corps construction and maintenance projects.

We applaud the Committee's commitment to maintaining a two year schedule for this authorization bill. It is extremely important to ensuring timely and consistent authorization of navigation projects and changes to Corps policy. We would like to specifically thank Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) for his strong leadership in Congress on issues important to our region, and for his unwavering commitment to ensuring the needs of ports in the Pacific Northwest are well represented in his Committee's discussions.

[As previously reported](#), the Senate bill was released last week and both bills are scheduled to be marked up by their respective Committees next week. Once the bills are out of Committee, they would need to be passed in their respective chambers before a conference committee is established to work out the differences and draft a final bill for further consideration. For more information, contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

Additional details released for FY2019 House Energy & Water bill

As PNWA previously reported, the House Appropriations Committee's Energy & Water Development Subcommittee released their FY2019 funding bill on May 7th. Initial information was included in our [Nor'wester newsletter](#), and new details were released this week in the [full committee report](#). The legislation provides \$3.3 billion for the Corps navigation program, which includes a significant amount of additional funding for the agency's Investigations, Construction and Operations and Maintenance accounts. The details for each can be found below:

	FY2019 President's Budget	FY2019 House Bill
Overall Corps Funding	\$4,785,000,000	\$7,280,000,000
Corps Navigation Program	\$1,930,000,000	\$3,300,000,000
HMTF funding	\$965,130,000	\$1,600,000,000
General Investigations	\$82,600,000	\$128,000,000
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction		\$7,500,000

Flood Control		\$5,000,000
Shore Protection		\$2,250,000
Navigation		\$10,323,000
Coastal & Deep Draft		\$6,500,000
Inland		\$6,500,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$6,750,000
Environmental Restoration or Compliance		\$3,000,000
Construction	\$1,019,000,000	\$2,323,000,000
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction		\$200,000,000
Flood Control		\$180,000,000
Shore Protection		\$60,000,000
Navigation		\$525,067,000
IWTF		\$99,750,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$125,000,000
Environmental Restoration		\$50,000,000
Environmental Infrastructure		\$80,000,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$3,193,000,000	\$3,820,000,000
Navigation Maintenance		\$32,902,000
Deep Draft Harbor & Channel		\$520,000,000
Donor & Energy Transfer Ports		\$50,000,000
Inland Waterways		\$50,000,000
Small, Remote & Subsistence		\$60,000,000
Other Authorized Purposes		\$75,000,000

PNWA is grateful to the Committee for their efforts to propose robust funding for the Corps, including additional funding for our deep draft, inland and small projects, as well as \$50 million for donor ports. We anticipate that the Senate bill will be released in the coming weeks. Typically, both bills would be passed by their respective Chambers, then conferenced for a final piece of legislation that is signed into law before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2018. As we've seen in past years, however, Congress has delayed work on the appropriations bills and passed a series of continuing resolutions before agreeing on an omnibus. PNWA will keep our members apprised of the FY2019 process as it unfolds in the coming months.

As a reminder, the Corps continues to develop their current year (FY2018) workplan, which is scheduled to be released next week and will include specific funding numbers for PNWA's supported projects around the region. PNWA will provide updates on the workplan once it is available.



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