



Nor'wester newsletter

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FY 2021 Appropriations

As [previously reported](#), Congress passed a [large omnibus package](#) for most federal agencies on Dec. 21, providing funding for the remainder of the current fiscal year which concludes on Sept. 30, 2021.

The President signed the omnibus into law on Dec. 27. This now starts the clock on the workplan creation effort for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agency is required to report back to Congress how it plans to spend significant additional maintenance, construction, studies and other funding.

From the introduction of the budget and throughout the appropriations process, PNWA has been in close contact with our Northwest Congressional delegation, the Corps' Portland, Walla Walla and Seattle Districts, as well as its Northwestern Division and Headquarters, regarding our association's [regional priorities](#). We will continue our efforts to highlight the navigation infrastructure that is critical in the Northwest throughout the workplan development effort.

Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act

We previously reported on the [Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act \(MTSERA\)](#) introduced by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D, OR-4) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D, OR). The legislation will establish a mechanism within the Maritime Administration to distribute emergency appropriations funding to ports and the maritime industry, similar to programs that already exist for aviation, rail, and transit. MTSERA was included in the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) that passed both the House and Senate by large margins.

The President vetoed the NDAA on Dec. 23. A President's veto can be overridden by a 2/3 majority vote in each chamber of Congress. Historically, veto overrides are very rare. This was the President's ninth veto of his term; none of the previous eight were overridden.

The NDAA is a bill that typically has very strong bipartisan support. Last night, the House voted to override the veto, 322-87. The Senate vote is expected to happen sometime before Jan. 3, when existing legislation expires and the 117th Congress convenes. PNWA will report more on these developments in the coming week.

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