



May 26, 2016

[PNWA Website](#) - [About PNWA](#) - [Action Agenda](#) - [PNWA Events](#) - [News](#) - [Contact Us](#)**In This Issue:**[House WRDA bill passes out of Committee](#)[Controversial amendments stall House Energy & Water bill](#)**House WRDA bill passes out of Committee**

Yesterday, the [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#) (T&I) passed their Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 ([H.R.5053](#)). We reported on the legislation last week when the bill was released, and are pleased to see that this critical bill is moving forward. PNWA staff was in DC earlier this week and was able to highlight our thoughts on the bill, as well as our [full requests](#), in discussions with many of the Northwest Congressional offices.

The original draft included [important provisions for the PNWA membership](#), including making Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues directly available for the Corps in FY2027, making the 10% set aside for small ports permanent and supporting the needs of the Port of Cascade Locks and the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group. In addition to those provisions, an amendment was also passed yesterday extending WRRDA 2014 Section 2106, which authorized \$50M annually for donor & energy transfer ports. The House bill now includes language extending the program through FY2025 as long as annual HMT targets are met from FY2016-FY2020. As previously noted, the House bill also changes the donor port threshold from \$15M to \$5M, adding 2-3 donor ports to the program.

The next step for H.R.5053 is full consideration by the House. The [Senate bill](#) was passed out of Committee in late April and is ready to be considered by the full Senate. We have heard anecdotally that we could see some action in June or July, however no specific timeline has been released. PNWA thanks the Northwest delegation for supporting our [WRDA requests](#) in this process, and we greatly appreciate the work of T&I Ranking Member Peter DeFazio for ensuring many of our region's needs are represented in the bill.

Controversial amendments stall House Energy & Water bill

The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill was up for floor consideration this week and failed by a vote of 112-305. After two full days spent debating, controversial amendments attached to the bill ultimately prevented passage of the legislation.

[Nor'wester readers will recall](#) that the bill was released on April 12th and quickly passed out of Committee on April 19th. It would fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at \$6.1B, including \$2.7B for the navigation program. Robust "additional funding" for many of the accounts important to PNWA was also supported in the bill, including \$245M for navigation construction, \$258M for deep draft operations & maintenance (O&M) and \$50M in O&M funding for small, remote and subsistence harbors.

House leadership has said they will continue to press forward on the appropriations process, but a timeline is unknown. PNWA will continue to monitor the process, and will provide updates as they are available.

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