



# Nor'wester Newsletter

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## WRDA passes the Senate!

The Senate has passed the [Water Resources Development Act \(WRDA\) of 2016](#) by a vote of 95-3. Details of the bill were reported in Tuesday's *Nor'wester*, which outlined many of the provisions that are important to PNWA members and have been priorities of our association. Highlights include:

- An improved approach to Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spending, ensuring an increase of at least 3% annually
- Making the small ports set aside permanent
- Strengthening the donor port provisions by making the \$50M annual authorization permanent, and targeting rebates to discretionary cargo
- Authorizing the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act to reduce toxics in the Columbia River Basin
- Removal of an outdated flowage easement for the Port of Cascade Locks
- Allowing cultural and historic preservation, recreation and tourism to be considered in Corps disposition studies, benefitting the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group

PNWA is so pleased to see this legislation passed, and thanks our Northwest Senators for their strong support of our priorities in the bill. The House has not announced when they will consider their bill, however, we have heard it may receive floor time as early as next

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week. PNWA will continue to update our members as WRDA moves forward. Please contact [Heather Stebbings](#) with any questions.

## NOAA announces Barry Thom as the agency's West Coast Regional Administrator; Will Stelle named new Senior Advisor

PNWA would like to congratulate long-time NOAA employees Barry Thom and William "Will" Stelle on their new roles. Barry Thom was selected as the agency's next West Coast Regional Administrator. The agency also announced two-time West Coast Regional Administrator and political appointee Will Stelle will be named Senior Advisor to NOAA Administrator, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan.

We look forward to continuing to support the agency on the Columbia Basin Partnership and many other efforts. For more information, click [here](#).

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