



Nor'wester newsletter

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House passes 2018 WRDA

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R.8, the [Water Resources Development Act of 2018](#) (WRDA), by a vote of 408-2. This moves WRDA one step closer to enactment this year, and to maintaining the authorizing legislation's biennial schedule.

PNWA previously reported on H.R.8 when it was introduced last month. It is important to note that the original legislation passed out of Committee included Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) language championed by Rep. Peter DeFazio. The provision would have provided all HMTF receipts to the Corps each year, but was later removed due to opposition from the Budget and Appropriations Committees. While disappointing, we are encouraged that conversations continue about how to provide full spending of the HMTF, as well as meet the needs of donor ports.

As [previously noted](#), the bill does include a number of studies and reports related to administration and management of the Corps. In addition, language authorizing a feasibility study to examine deepening Tacoma Harbor remains in the bill. We are also pleased to report that an amendment was approved today in support of a potential land trade between the Corps and the Port of Whitman County. The amendment, championed by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, could help expand activities along the Snake River such as the shipping of grain and distribution of other products.

PNWA will continue to review the final House bill over the next couple of days and will report any additional information of note. We sincerely thank Rep. DeFazio for his leadership on

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this bill, as well as the entire Northwest House delegation for their support of WRDA 2018. The Senate is expected to vote on their water resources legislation this summer. Once the bill is approved by both Chambers, a conference committee will be established to work out the differences and draft final WRDA legislation.

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