

May 6, 2020

SENATE ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE PASSES AWIA (WRDA) BILL WITH INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND COST-SHARE ADJUSTMENT

Today, the Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee marked up and passed by a 21-0 roll call vote *America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2020*, which included the Committee's version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

The EPW Committee's bill, reported to the Senate, includes WCI's top WRDA priority to adjust the cost-share for construction and major rehabilitation of inland waterways projects. The Senate EPW Committee's provision to adjust the cost-share from 50% from Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF)/50% General Revenues to 35% IWTF/65% General Revenues (in Section 1069 of the bill) is a significant step toward ensuring inland waterways construction and major rehabilitation projects advance more efficiently. This development benefits the Nation by potentially providing \$1 billion in additional construction funds over 10 years.

The Senate bill also authorizes the *Chief's Report for Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazos River Floodgates and Colorado River Locks* at 65% General Revenues/35% IWTF.

The bill also encourages the Corps to expedite the completion of the Kentucky Lock Post Authorized Change Report (PACR), which sets a new authorized amount for the total cost of construction on that project.

The House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee received Members' WRDA priorities on May 1 and is beginning negotiations between the Majority and Minority. House markup of the bill is expected in June. WCI continues to urge that the House include the 75%/25% cost-share adjustment. A recent "Dear Colleague" letter led by Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA) and Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX) sent to the House T&I Committee garnered 78 signatures in support of this cost-share provision. Several other Members of the House have indicated their individual requests to T&I included the cost-share provision.

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