



**National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of State-Federal Relations**

House Passes Water Resources Development Act of 2016

September 28, 2016

On September 28, the U.S. House of Representatives passed, 399-35, H.R. 5303, the [Water Resources Development Act of 2016](#) (WRDA.) The bill authorizes over \$9 billion for a number of water resources projects including harbor maintenance, flood control, and environmental restoration.

Specifically, WRDA authorizes 31 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects across the nation, designed to improve ocean and river ports, barge traffic, flood control and ecosystem restoration. Projects include dredging, maintenance and modernization of ports in Florida and South Carolina, flood and storm management in California, Kansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Missouri, and Tennessee, and ecosystem restoration of the Florida Everglades and the Los Angeles River. For a fully comprehensive list of all authorized USACE projects, click [here](#).

Additionally, unlike the Senate version that was passed earlier this month and included \$4.9 billion in authorizations for clean and safe drinking water programs – see [NCSL's info alert](#) for more details – the House version does not include such language. However, the final House version does include language authorizing \$170 million for communities impacted by lead contaminated drinking water, slightly less than the \$220 million included in the Senate bill.

As both the House and the Senate have now adjourned until after the November elections, it is anticipated that congressional staff will work together to reconcile the differences between the two bills so a final version can be enacted sometime in late November or December. NCSL will continue to advocate that a final version ensures full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to maintain the nation's harbors, ports and waterways as well as an increase federal appropriations for safe drinking water programs to necessary levels that also takes into account recent developments across the country regarding lead contamination.

For any further questions or concerns regarding the WRDA, please contact NCSL staff [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Kristen Hildreth](#) (202-624-3597).