

(e) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In selecting eligible entities to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall consider—

(1) whether the community or communities in which the eligible entity is seeking to carry out a proposed project has curbside recycling;

(2) whether the proposed project of the eligible entity will improve accessibility to recycling services in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities; and

(3) if the eligible entity is a public-private partnership, the financial health of the private entity seeking to enter into that public-private partnership.

(f) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting eligible entities to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities seeking to carry out a proposed project in a community in which there is not more than 1 materials recovery facility within a 75-mile radius of that community.

(g) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may use the grant funds for projects to improve recycling accessibility in communities, including in underserved communities, by—

(1) increasing the number of transfer stations;

(2) expanding curbside recycling collection programs where appropriate; and

(3) leveraging public-private partnerships to reduce the costs associated with collecting and transporting recyclable materials in underserved communities.

(h) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may not use the grant funds for projects relating to recycling education programs.

(i) **MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.**—A grant awarded to an eligible entity under the pilot grant program shall be in an amount—

(1) not less than \$500,000; and

(2) not more than \$15,000,000.

(j) **SET-ASIDE.**—The Administrator shall set aside not less than 70 percent of the amounts made available to carry out the pilot grant program for each fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to carry out a proposed project or program in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities.

(k) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of a project or program carried out by an eligible entity using grant funds shall be not more than 90 percent.

(2) **WAIVER.**—The Administrator may waive the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines that an eligible entity would experience significant financial hardship as a result of that requirement.

(l) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of the pilot grant program, which shall include—

(1) a list of eligible entities that have received a grant under the pilot grant program;

(2) the actions taken by each eligible entity that received a grant under the pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility with grant funds; and

(3) to the extent information is available, a description of how grant funds received under the pilot grant program improved recycling rates in each community in which a project or program was carried out under the pilot grant program.

(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the pilot grant program such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027, to remain available until expended.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), the Administrator may use up to 5 percent—

(A) for administrative costs relating to carrying out the pilot grant program; and

(B) to provide technical assistance to eligible entities applying for a grant under the pilot grant program.

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask that Senator BOOZMAN, who is a charter member of the Senate Recycling Caucus, be recognized to speak on behalf of these measures, which he has played a key role on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member CAPITO, for your leadership in that this area.

As has been said and should be said many times more, we appreciate the great work of our staffs in getting this done.

The other thing that is so important is the answers to our problems need to come from the ground up. Through the Recycling Caucus and hearings, and the list goes on and on, this is where those answers were generated—from the people who are out fighting the battles.

We talk a lot about the lack of bipartisanship and things. This is a great example of people working together for the common good up here.

It is great for the environment in the sense that recycling is not just gathering. We don't want to have a situation continuing, like we do now, where so much of that that is gathered actually winds up in the landfill eventually.

Conservation is the low-hanging fruit. You know, it makes all the sense in the world to reuse things. It creates a situation where we lessen the dependence on landfills, things like that. And then, again, in this age of globalization and things, we really do need to use the resources that we have and then continue to use the resources as we go forward.

So we are talking about jobs. We are talking about the environment. And, for that reason, I very much support and appreciate, as I said, the leadership of the chairman and the ranking member for their great effort in pushing this forward.

And, with that, I yield the floor to Senator CARDIN—Mr. Chairman.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I just want to say again my thanks to—I think I am pretty rabid on recycling, but this fellow from Arkansas is right there with me. I appreciate very much both your leadership and Senator CAPITO's.

I think we are going to shift gears here. We just passed two very signifi-

cant recycling bills for our country. This is something that I am thrilled about, and I know Senator CAPITO is as well. And we are going to shift gears and take some time to consider other important legislation: the Water Resources Development Act.

Senator CARDIN, who chairs the subcommittee, has jurisdiction on the water resources bill. I think he is prepared to speak.

I think I need to make a unanimous consent request before we do that.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and consider H.R. 7776, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7776) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5140 is agreed to.

There will now be up to 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The amendment (No. 5140) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 20, 2022, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, with that, I would please yield to the chairman of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Water Resources Development Act, BEN CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me thank Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO and my counterpart on the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Senator CRAMER, for bringing us to this moment where we will soon be voting on the Water Resources Development Act.

I must tell you, this is an extremely important bill that gives the Army Corps the authorization they need to advance critically important water projects in our country.

Mr. President, this was passed by a unanimous vote in the Environment and Public Works Committee. Due to the leadership of Senator CARPER and Senator CAPITO, this bill involves the input of all the members of our committee and—dare I say—all the Members of the U.S. Senate. So I want to thank them for getting this bill to the point where we will be able to vote on it this afternoon.

This bill is truly bipartisan. It incorporates the input from every single Senator and reflects priorities for our

water resources in States and communities across the country. It provides crucial authority for projects and guidance for the Army Corps of Engineers to engineer better solutions to our Nation's toughest water infrastructure supply and quality challenges.

The work of the Army Corps of Engineers is vital for keeping commerce flowing in our waterways, for restoring aquatic ecosystems, and for helping communities deal with the risks and impacts of flooding.

In my State of Maryland, we have challenges in all of these areas, and we are partnering with the Army Corps to address them. The Port of Baltimore, for example, is critical in our national supply chains and an economic engine for the State of Maryland.

To enhance the port's ability to serve commerce and provide safe navigation, the Army Corps is moving forward with a Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, or Mid-Bay, which will put dredged material to beneficial use restoring our ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay, a major win-win for commerce and the environment. Here we are taking dredged materials and using it for environmental restoration, providing a very popular place to put dredged material so we can keep our harbors and our channels dredged but we also can restore our environment at the same time.

A project the size of Mid-Bay also has the opportunity to benefit smaller channels along the Chesapeake Bay. In Maryland, we have dozens and dozens of smaller channels that support economic activity, recreational opportunities, and are an integral part of the identity of the small communities they serve, but these channels have not received the maintenance that they require.

I am proud that this year's WRDA bill provides the Corps with new authorization to address these underserved harbors and channels, directing the Corps to take a closer look at them according to the significance to their community and not just based on the total amount of cargo they move. This is going to help many of our communities around America.

In doing so, this bill adds new perspective to the Army Corps' thinking so that the Chesapeake Bay is fully understood not just as an artery for commerce but as a national environmental treasure that is home to living waterfronts that support a variety of community, economic, and nature-based activities. The WRDA reauthorization takes an important step in that direction with its provisions for underserved harbors.

I am also proud that this bill includes a new statewide authorization for the Army Corps to provide assistance to Maryland on environmental infrastructure. We very much will take advantage of this opportunity. We know that we have challenges with the Chesapeake Bay, and this environ-

mental study assistance will certainly help us in meeting our obligations.

This authorization will also help communities across my State deal with the impact of aging infrastructure and move forward on the backlog of critical repairs and upgrades to water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

The bill recognizes that because the Army Corps work is in high demand around the country, the Corps needs to be accessible to communities and engage with them directly on the challenges they face. The Planning Assistance to States Program, which has been so important to Maryland, will now include a new authority for the Corps to conduct this outreach to communities.

The Army Corps is carrying out its important work on navigation, flood risk mitigation, ecosystem restoration, and environmental infrastructure against the backdrop of a worsening climate crisis.

This reality is forcing us to act with new urgency to protect our communities from multiple hazards that our country is already experiencing with increased frequency and severity, including concentrated catastrophic rainfall events, sea level rise, and the associated erosion and flooding that these impacts bring. It is also forcing us to prioritize the restoration of ecosystems harmed by climate change that can still play a role in building resilience. All of that is incorporated in this bill, and we will be able to have those tools that are available.

I just want to mention that one example is marshlands, which absorb tons of carbon dioxide in the United States each year. They buffer waves and reduce flooding during storms. We had a hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee yesterday—it was a good hearing—on how we can get carbon capture. Well, one of the ways we can get carbon capture through natural causes is to restore wetlands, which trap carbon, and this bill will allow us to move forward in that direction.

Finally, I want to note that, this year, the Army Corps' Baltimore District is celebrating its 175th anniversary. I congratulate the Baltimore District on this important milestone. The district has played an instrumental role in the history of our Nation and the State of Maryland, dating back to the construction of Fort McHenry, and I am proud of the ongoing partnership of Colonel Pinchasin, the current regional director.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I again applaud the great leadership we have on our committee, the very open way that we do business, the way that we listen to each other and are able to get the priorities accomplished.

To Senator CARPER and Senator CAPITO and Senator CRAMER, it is a pleasure to work with you, and thank you for making this possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, for his good, hard work with Senator CRAMER on the subcommittee. Senator CARDIN and I share the Chesapeake Bay. He has got a lot more of it than I do, but we have worked on those issues for years together, and I think that shows his dedication not just to his State but to the environment. So I appreciate all of his efforts.

I am very pleased to rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This is the bill we are considering today. We call it WRDA. Most of us know it as WRDA.

Congress authorizes water resource projects and sets national policies for the Civil Works Program and for the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The work of the Corps facilitates commerce throughout the country and internationally. Projects along our inland waterways, which are important in my State, and in our ports enable the movement of cargo while also bolstering our supply chain. Their support and partnership during this process were integral for us to reach a solid agreement.

So, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank you and your staff, and I am going to go through our staff list really quickly: Mary Frances Repko, John Kane, Jordan Baugh, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann-Reardon, Milo Goodell, and Janine Barr from your staff.

So thank you all very, very much.

Today proves, again, the ability of our EPW Committee to develop bipartisan infrastructure legislation that addresses the needs of Senators in the communities that we represent. Our colleagues submitted more than 800 policy and project priorities to the committee. We worked hard to thoughtfully incorporate a majority of their requests into this legislation, and I think that shows with the vote we got in committee.

True to the Corps' tradition, the bill moves forward projects that benefit local communities and the entire country.

We know that natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes can strike at any time and have devastating consequences for our communities. The Corps' work to protect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans is furthered by congressional authorization of flood and coastal storm risk management projects.

Since 2014, Congress has enacted WRDA every 2 years, and I am thrilled that we are here again continuing that tradition. I again want to thank Chairman CARPER for his leadership and dedication to this critical piece of legislation, as well as—and I think I already mentioned them, but I will mention them again because Senator CARDIN and Senator CRAMER have been

very integral as the subcommittee chairs.

Specifically, the WRDA bill authorizes 30 projects around the country, including projects for navigation, flood and coastal storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration. One such project is a coastal storm risk management project along the eastern coast of Texas. Think of all of the hurricanes and damage that we have heard over the years that have come in on the eastern shore at Galveston and Houston. This will help mitigate the impacts of future hurricanes and ensure that critical port assets can continue to serve our country's shipping and supply chain needs as we are moving forward.

The bill also directs the Corps to expedite the completion of 24 previously authorized projects, and it authorizes 36 studies that will develop solutions to water resources challenges that we have ahead.

While this bill is very much oriented toward advancing critical projects and studies in our States, it also includes several policy changes that I would like to highlight. At the beginning of this process, I outlined areas in which I believe changes would be beneficial. I said we needed to reduce the confusion that some communities experience when they are dealing with the Corps and ensure more effective delivery of our projects—and efficient delivery. So the bill bolsters the Agency's technical assistance authorities, specifically the Floodplain Management Services and Planning Assistance to States Program—again, one that impacts my State greatly.

This bill authorizes the Corps to conduct outreach to ensure that our communities are knowledgeable of the ways in which the Agency can help them with their water resources needs. It directs the Corps to designate staff in each district that can do this outreach.

The bill makes important improvements to the Tribal Partnership Program and other authorities to assist Indian Tribes. It also expands existing programs and includes new authorities to assist communities that are economically disadvantaged, including those located in rural areas.

It requires reporting on timelines for the environmental review process for projects. The bill directs the GAO to conduct a study: a review of projects that are overbudgeted and delayed—find out what is going on—as well as a review of the Corps' mitigation practices for projects.

The bill includes several provisions that improve flexibility with regard to financial accounting; for example, the bill allows Federal Agencies to provide funding to help satisfy the non-Federal sponsor's contribution for a project or study under certain circumstances. It authorizes, for the first time, a dedicated research and development account for the Corps to spur innovation and provides contracting flexibility in undertaking these activities.

The bill directs the Corps to support science, technology, engineering, and math—STEM—education and recruit individuals for careers at this Agency. The input of non-Federal entities is crucial to successfully resolving water resources challenges now and in the future.

This bill establishes a new advisory committee for non-Federal interests to voice their opinions on how the Corps can better meet their needs.

We preserve the integral part of the non-Federal cost share partners in the project delivery process by avoiding mandates from Washington, DC, and ensuring that the Corps continues to evaluate a full array of solutions during the feasibility study phase.

In addition to my role as a ranking member, I represent the great State of West Virginia, and I worked to address the needs of my home State. Here are just a few highlights before I close.

This legislation advances a critical flood control project of the city of Milton, WV. Authorized in the 1990s, this project is longtime coming, and I am proud to have helped move it forward.

The bill also supports flood control studies for the Kanawha River Basin and the city of Huntington. And it continues to provide environmental infrastructure assistance to communities throughout the State.

Finally, the bill will provide additional critical support to riverbank stabilizations such as those on the Kanawha River.

In closing, there is a lot in this bill—I could go on and on, but I won't—for communities across the country. It is the culmination of a true bipartisan agreement and represents our shared goal of addressing the Nation's water resources needs.

I am very proud of our committee. I am very proud to be here today with you. We are active; we are cooperative; and we are fruitful. We get things done. I like that. It is a testament to the values and goals that Chairman CARPER and I share, and it is a testament to our personal friendship and our working relationship. Thank you for that.

Before I close, I would like to thank my staff as well for all of their hard work and dedication to seeing that we get this across the finish line: Adam Tomlinson, Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, and Haden Miller.

I would also like to thank the technical assistance that we received from the U.S. Corps of Engineers staff: Amy Klein, Dave Wethington, and countless other technical staff.

And, then, from Senate legislative counsel, we would like to thank Deanna Edwards.

I look forward to a rousing vote here in a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I could not improve upon what has already been said about the work on this im-

portant bill. Senator CAPITO has articulated much more eloquently than I all of the priorities that are important in the bill.

I am just going to add my thanks to Chairman CARPER and to Ranking Member CAPITO and, of course, to subcommittee Chairman CARDIN as well. It has been a great team effort, as is, I think, illustrated in the final product and the overwhelming vote. Let's keep the team together. And let's just pass a really big, important WRDA bill.

And I emphasize again, we did this through regular order, colleagues. We stayed on the 2-year schedule, colleagues. And when we work together, we can do good work for the people we serve.

With that, I urge a strong vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator CRAMER not just for his words but—I will take my mask off—not just for his words but for his great participation, he and his staff, in this effort.

I don't think it has been said in our short time we have been on the floor here this morning: In the subcommittee, we don't just make up this legislation. We have a tradition of reaching out to other Senate offices. We reached out to all 100 Senate offices. We ask everybody—Democrat, Republican, a couple of Independents—and say: What are your priorities? What would you like to see prioritized, included in this legislation?

We received feedback and input from, I think, every single office. And we have tried to reflect that input in this legislation.

So this is very much a community effort. And for everyone who has participated, thank you for doing so and putting us in a position today to vote and, hopefully, in an affirmative way.

Before we do vote, I just want to express one more time my very, very strong support for the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. As we have heard before this bill: Affectionately known as WRDA, it is an ambitious, bipartisan water resources package that ensures the timely reauthorization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer studies and projects. The bill also equips the Corps with critical authorities to restore ecosystems and protect communities from climate-change-exacerbated events like flooding and drought.

This legislation is a product of tireless commitment to bipartisanship and doing the right thing. Senator CAPITO, Senator CARDIN, Senator CRAMER, and myself and our staffs look past the party differences and find, once more, a path forward on critical infrastructure needs, just as we did last year on the bipartisan infrastructure bill that the President signed into law late last year.

This is not the first time we have done this, and it won't be the last. This Congress, the Environmental Public Works Committee, has consistently advanced bipartisan legislation on drinking water; legislation on wastewater;

legislation on transportation—roads, highways, bridges—and on recycling just today, just today. All of those bills passed EPW unanimously, just like this Army Corps of Engineers bill passed unanimously.

As EPW chairman, I am quite proud of the committee's work. I just wish that everybody in the country who thinks that all we do is fight around here and agree on nothing—I wish they had a chance to kind of tune in and maybe be a fly on the wall and hear how when you work together, you can get some amazing stuff done and really important, really important things, as well, for all of our States, for every corner of this country.

A word, if I could, about the Army Corps of Engineers. I am a Navy guy. I spent something like 23 years Active Reserve Duty. I am the last Vietnam veteran serving here. But I have huge respect—huge respect—for the Army Corps of Engineers. I like to say: Different uniforms, same team. And in my State and, frankly, all 50 States, they do extraordinary work—sometimes without a lot of recognition, without a lot of thanks. And I just want to say, we recognize you in Delaware; we recognize you even in the Navy; and we are deeply grateful for the work that you do, the great work you do. We couldn't do a lot of what we do without your help. And this legislation is needed for the Army Corps to meet their responsibilities and obligations.

But all the bills that I mentioned earlier passed committee unanimously, as did this bill. And, again, we are so proud of the committee's work.

What a joy it is to work with Senator CAPITO. And I wish I could say the same thing about her staff. No. I am just joking.

Adam, you know we love working with you and your team, and we are really privileged.

We were privileged to be led on our side of the staff by Mary Frances Repko, who is new at this. She has not worked long for many weeks or months on the Hill. Actually, she has probably for a quarter of a century or so, and I think she started at the age of 12. She has done a lot, and she still has a lot of gas in the tank.

But going back to the Corps—the Corps is the principal steward of our Nation's water infrastructure, and it serves both as a facilitator and protector of our diverse economy.

This bill—WRDA 2022—recognizes that the Corps is an essential part of our lives. This bill takes critical steps to better support the Agency as it serves all parts of our country. From navigation to ecosystem restoration and flood control, the Corps is the backbone—really, the foundation, if you will, on which our country was built.

I would like to reiterate that every provision in this bill is the result of bipartisan work. I can confidently say that WRDA 2022 will benefit all corners of our nation—from Alaska to Cali-

fornia to Kentucky to New York, from Maryland to rural towns and every place in between.

Again, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to staff on the Democratic side, the majority staff, and to Senator CAPITO's staff on the minority side, the Republican side.

Actually, you can walk into a meeting, some of the meetings we have with Senator CAPITO and myself and our staffs, and if you didn't know who worked for whom, you wouldn't know. You wouldn't know, which I think is an amazing thing, a wonderful thing.

With that in mind, again, I want to thank again my staff and Senate CAPITO's staff who worked so hard. I want to recognize, again, Mary Frances Repko and Adam Tomlinson for their dedicated leadership on the Democratic side and the Republican side of our committee.

I also want to thank Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, Haden Miller, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann Reardon, Jordan Baugh, Milo Goodell, Janine Barr, and John Kane—especially John Kane—for their tireless efforts.

John, you are a force of nature. And thank you very, very much for your great leadership.

I would like to say, again—I just said that, so I am not going to say that again. I also want to thank Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps—Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps—for their countless hours of technical assistance and support as the bill was developed.

In closing, I want to encourage all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this excellent bill, because every State stands to benefit from the legislation before us today.

Mr. President, the Senate is now considering the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, affectionately known as WRDA. Not only is this biennial legislation an ambitious water resources bill, it is also the product of a tireless commitment to bipartisanship. Earlier this year, we reached out to all 100 Senators to solicit their input for this legislation. We developed this legislation using that feedback, and in May, we advanced this legislation out of the Environment and Public Works Committee by a vote of 20 to 0, something I am quite proud of as EPW chairman.

In these times of partisan divide, it is not often we see legislation receive unanimous support. But, as we all know, bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. That is how I think we should approach much of our work in the Senate—by reaching across the aisle to find lasting solutions, where possible, to the problems we face as a nation. The bill before us today is a result of that partnership.

Before I delve into all we accomplish in this bill, let me thank everyone who played a role in its development—especially our EPW committee ranking member, Senator CAPITO, our Trans-

portation and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair, Senator CARDIN, our subcommittee ranking member, Senator CRAMER, every member of our committee, and the members of our staffs. I also want to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for supporting us throughout the drafting process.

This legislation continues the 2-year cycle for WRDA. By passing it, we will ensure timely authorization of the Army Corps' studies and projects. This work is critical in supporting our economy, restoring critical ecosystems, and protecting communities from climate change and extreme weather events like flooding and drought.

When we talk about WRDA, I cannot overstate just how important the Army Corps' work is in the lives of Americans across the country. The Corps is the principal steward of our Nation's water infrastructure. That includes our beaches, our waterways, and our flood control systems. Without the enactment of WRDA, our economy could well grind to a halt.

The Corps operates and maintains America's water highway, a 12,000-mile-long system of inland waterways with 209 locks that are vital to domestic and international commerce. Each year, more than 500 million tons of commodities move through this system, including 60 percent of our Nation's agricultural exports. Operating and maintaining this extensive network results in an economic benefit of nearly \$14 billion each year for our country.

In addition to managing the waterways that connect our ports to world commerce, the Army Corps of Engineers is also responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and efficient navigation at our coastal ports. As we have seen over the past 2 years, navigable shipping channels are essential to keeping global supply chains moving.

More than 99 percent of U.S. overseas trade volume moves through the 13,000 miles of coastal channels maintained by the Corps, supporting over 30 million jobs across the country. Cargo activity at our Nation's ports supports more than a quarter of the U.S. economy. And, over the next decade, an estimated \$66 billion in future investment will be needed to ensure continued domestic job creation and economic growth.

Recognizing the economic importance of our Nation's inland shipping channels, WRDA 2022 adjusts the Inland Waterways Trust Fund cost share to expedite much needed project improvements.

The legislation also addresses the harbor deepening and maintenance needs of commercially significant ports, as well as underserved community harbors. While commercially significant ports are vital to our Nation's economy, community harbors are similarly important to local and regional economies.

WRDA 2022 ensures that these community harbors, which provide essential fishing, recreation, and navigation services, will continue to receive maintenance that will allow for their continued use.

As a recovering Governor, I often like to say that it is our responsibility as elected officials to create a nurturing environment for job creation and job preservation. Maintaining our ports and coastal waterways is a cornerstone of that nurturing environment.

The Corps is also a leader in flood and storm damage mitigation and ecosystem restoration. In addition to managing over 700 dams and more than 13,000 miles of levees and floodwalls, it restores and nourishes the Nation's dunes and beaches, constructs and maintains wetlands and floodplains, and protects shorelines and riverbanks.

In total, the Corps' flood and coastal storm risk management activities, and infrastructure portfolio, provide the nation an economic benefit of nearly \$260 billion in damage prevention and reduction. This is critical to understand because more than 40 percent of our Nation's population lives in coastal counties. If coastal counties were their own nation, they would rank third in the world in gross domestic product—beaten out only by China and the United States as a whole.

This work is especially important for the communities I represent in Delaware. Earlier this year, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, a nor'easter pummeled beaches up and down the Delmarva Peninsula. When I toured the damage, it was staggering to think that in 2 weeks, these communities needed to be ready for the first real beach season since the start of the COVID pandemic.

While many beaches had experienced severe erosion and destruction, the dune system that the Corps had built worked as designed and protected Delmarva communities from the storm. Homes and buildings remained intact. Businesses could still operate. States were prepared to handle the storm because of the work that the Army Corps had done. Now, we are working with the Corps to rebuild these beaches, which are the lifeblood of our States' economies.

Water, as we all know, is essential for life and a critical input into virtually all economic activity. It is hard—in fact, it is impossible—to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, without the use of water and water-related infrastructure. Unfortunately, climate change is fueling extreme weather in the form of longer and stronger nor'easters, hurricanes, and droughts. This threatens the Corps' ability to be a good steward of our water infrastructure, as well as that infrastructure's ability to protect and support our economy.

And this is not just a problem for coastal communities. For inland communities like those along the Missouri

River, climate change means heavier and more frequent precipitation events, inland flooding, riverbank erosion, and the inundation of water treatment systems with sediments and contaminants in some areas. For other communities out west, climate change means historic droughts, water shortages, and deeply destructive wildfires.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 recognizes these challenges posed by climate change. It accounts for the new realities that the Corps faces in carrying out its primary missions and takes critical steps to address these looming concerns. How?

First, WRDA 2022 overhauls the Corps' project development authorities, allowing the agency to better address the impacts of climate change. This will make a big difference in States like Arizona, where we are witnessing the worst drought conditions along the Colorado River in 12,000 years.

Under our legislation, the Corps and local project sponsors will, for the first time, be able to partner and develop cost-shared plans to address drought risk management and water supply conservation during the planning, constructing, and operating of water resources development projects.

Communities in coastal States will also be able to develop projects that address their specific climate-related impacts. This means that we will see projects better formulated to combat sea level rise, as well as back bay flooding or even sunny day tidal changes instead of just storm surge protection.

In addition to overhauling the Corps' project development authorities, WRDA 2022 makes clear that the protection and restoration of shorelines and riverbanks from erosion and other damaging forces is a primary responsibility. It also improves the Corps' ability to make shorelines and riverbanks more resilient.

In crafting this legislation, we also made equity a top priority. I am pleased to report that WRDA 2022 builds on the significant inroads made in WRDA 2020 to rectify historical inequities for Tribal and disadvantaged communities.

WRDA 2022 establishes a new Tribal and Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee to help the Corps more effectively deliver projects, programs, and other assistance to these communities. It also makes permanent the 2020 pilot programs that cover cost shares for economically disadvantaged communities.

In addition, this legislation reauthorizes the Corps' Tribal Partnership Program and makes a series of targeted improvements to increase opportunities for Tribal communities to partner with the Corps on essential projects in a more cost-effective way.

Finally, WRDA 2022 establishes a new workforce development and STEM outreach program at the Corps with a priority to recruit new engineers from historically disadvantaged communities.

As we move to the consideration of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, I am reminded of an old African proverb that goes something like this: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, travel together." On this bill, we can proudly say that we have chosen to travel together.

With that in mind, I would like to take a moment to thank my staff and Ranking Member CAPITO's staff who together spent tireless hours drafting and negotiating each provision in this bill.

I would like to recognize our staff directors, Mary Frances Repko and Adam Tomlinson, for their dedicated leadership.

I would also like to thank Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, Haden Miller, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann-Reardon, Jordan Baugh, Milo Goodell, Janine Barr, and John Kane for their tireless efforts.

I like to say that if you walked in a room and saw our staff in discussions, you would be impressed at how well they work together—even when discussing difficult issues.

I would also like to thank Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps for the countless hours of technical assistance and support as this bill was developed.

In closing, I urge all of my colleagues to join Senator CAPITO and me in supporting this excellent bill because every State stands to benefit from the legislation before us today.

I yield the floor.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the bill, as amended, is considered read a third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Leg.]

EXECUTIVE SESSION

YEAS—93

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Lee	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lujan	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Tuberville
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Paul	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—1

Braun

NOT VOTING—6

Burr	Leahy	Murkowski
Durbin	Manchin	Sasse

The bill (H.R. 7776), as amended, was passed.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 273, I voted no. It had been my intention to vote yea. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to change the vote since it will not affect the outcome.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1063, David Pressman, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary; that the Senate vote on the nomination at 1:45 p.m. today, without any intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that the July 19, 2022, order with respect to the Milstein nomination remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

PACT ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am coming down to the floor to speak briefly on our efforts to protect women's access to birth control and contraception, but before I do, I just want to note something that happened here today that was really odd.

So a few weeks back, we came together and had a consensus bipartisan vote to stand up for our veterans. A number of Republican and Democratic legislators here in the House and the Senate worked together to develop something called the PACT Act.

This is groundbreaking legislation, decades in the making, that provides veterans access to healthcare for exposure to toxic chemicals, exposure that comes through being subjected to military burn pits—these are pits where a lot of toxic chemicals and plastics are burned at military installations—but also for exposure to chemicals like Agent Orange.

So we had an 84-to-14 vote here just a few weeks ago in favor of the PACT Act and then the bill came back to the Senate due to some technical corrections having nothing to do with the substance of the bill. And yesterday the vote went from 84 to 55. Thirty Senators reversed their vote, and the bill failed. All 30 of those were Republicans.

What happened in 2 weeks that convinced 30 Republicans, who previously thought it was a good idea to help veterans, to decide instead to tank a bill that was helping veterans?

There are really only two explanations.

The more charitable explanation is that 30 Republicans just changed their minds; that 3 weeks ago they thought it was a good bill, helping veterans was a good idea, and 3 weeks later they decided that it wasn't a good idea; that they would rather spend that money on somebody else instead of our most vulnerable veterans.

Now, that would be pretty fantastic to have 30 Members of the Senate change their minds on the merits of a bill, especially a bill that helps veterans, the most vulnerable veterans in this country, veterans who are dealing with cancer and respiratory illnesses.

The less charitable explanation is this. Republicans are mad that Demo-

crats are on the verge of passing climate change legislation and have decided to take out their anger on vulnerable veterans because that is the other thing that has changed in the last 3 weeks. Republicans thought that Democrats weren't going to be able to pass a bill asking corporations to pay a little bit more, tackling climate change. Yesterday, news emerged that there is an agreement that makes it likely that a climate change bill is going to proceed on the Senate floor, and, magically, 30 votes flipped.

That is the less charitable explanation because that would be pretty horrific if Republicans were mad about a climate change bill and decided to take out their anger on veterans—on vulnerable veterans.

So maybe in the coming days we will figure out which one it was. Maybe we will figure out if 30 votes flipped because the merits of the bill dictated that flip or maybe we will find out that Republicans have decided to just take out their anger about the reconciliation bill on veterans. Either way, this is not a good day for veterans in this country.

Democrats are standing up for veterans. We are going to keep voting for the PACT Act. We are going to bring it back. But 30 Republicans who thought helping veterans was a good idea just 3 weeks ago all of a sudden abandoned the cause.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, I came down to the floor to talk about something that happened yesterday as well. That was an effort by Democrats to get a bill on the floor that would protect women's access to contraception, and Republicans, predictably, blocked that bill from receiving consideration. I want to talk about the broader picture of what is going on here today.

J.D. Vance is a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He is a Republican star, maybe the party's highest profile candidate running for the Senate. Here is what he said about men who beat up their wives. He said: "[O]ne of the great tricks that I think the sexual revolution pulled on the American populace" was convincing people in "unhappy" or "violent" marriages that getting divorced would "make [them] happier."

Women should stop complaining, he suggests, about getting the crap beat out of them, stop trying to leave abusive husbands and just stick it out.

Senator HAWLEY, a few months ago, gave a whole speech explaining how men have certain virtues critical to the maintenance of the American Republic like aggression and competitiveness and independence that women don't have in equal measure. He made a pretty unapologetic case for the superiority of men over women.

MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, who is the biggest draw in the Republican Party right now—nobody gets a bigger crowd than she does. She says that women should just accept that they are the "weaker sex."