

May 1, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

New York and New Jersey's coastal communities and ecosystems are on the front lines of climate-driven flood impacts, facing increasing precipitation, sea levels, and storm surge intensity and frequency. Extreme periodic events, combined with the daily threat of tidal flooding, will have drastic economic and social costs for individuals, businesses, and governments at all levels without urgent and coordinated action. The following undersigned organizations are working to build resilience in the New York and New Jersey region, which has more than 16 million residents who face many growing challenges and are in need of comprehensive solutions that ensure the equitable resilience, accessibility, and ecological integrity of our communities.

To that end, we are supportive of the following aspects of the bill and request continued momentum to move these initiatives to implementation:

- Authorization and expedited implementation of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (Sec 1202)
- Support for the Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program (Sec 2001)
- Authorization and expedition of the Rahway Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study (Sec 1205)
- Support for the expedited completion of Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction (Sec 1202)
- Authorization and expedited implementation of the East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay Reformulation (Sec 1091)

We also recommend that the Committee amend Sec. 1003 to consider all comprehensive sources of coastal flood risk, not just hurricane and storm damage. We support feasibility studies to continue analyses started in the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS). We believe that the scope of the analysis proposed in Sec. 1003 could go further to have greater impact. We urge the Senate to broaden the scope to reflect and account for all comprehensive sources of coastal flood risk – hurricanes and other coastal storms, sea level

rise, and downstream flooding from the watershed – and to plan for measures that accurately manage risk and damages for densely populated metropolitan areas within the study area. We also advise that this broader scope be applied to ongoing and future feasibility studies conducted as a result of the NACCS, including the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study. Such a change is necessary to develop accurate and viable solutions reflective of the landscape and future conditions.

In addition, more than 40 organizations have recognized the need to fund and expand the authorization for the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study (NYNJHATS) to address significant shortcomings in the scope of the study and improve the outcomes to provide meaningful and effective solutions for the region against a comprehensive array of coastal flood risks, including sea level rise, hurricanes and extratropical storms, and low frequency precipitation events within the coastal watershed. Therefore, the undersigned request that Congress include modification to PUBLIC LAW 84-71 (1955) and PUBLIC LAW 113-2 (2013) to include a comprehensive approach to evaluating flood risk, as well as consideration of the economic and ecosystem services of proposed structural, nonstructural and natural or nature-based solutions, and community engagement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the draft of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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