

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3202**

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Water Resources &  
Environment  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Rouzer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Water Resources &  
Environment  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Written Testimony for Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Members' Day Hearing**

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairwoman Napolitano & Ranking Member Rouzer:

I want to thank you and all members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for your work and attention to the needs of individual districts as they relate to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022. I hope that this written testimony provides a better understanding to the study requests I have submitted for the committee's consideration for inclusion in WRDA.

As you are all aware, New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District on Long Island encompasses a large section of the south shore of the Great South Bay. Since joining Congress, I have been in constant contact with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials and project managers who are working tirelessly to ensure Long Island's south shore is maintained, protected, and prepared to withstand continuous seashore erosion and the effects of seasonal coastal storms and hurricanes.

Within the submission timeframe my staff and I were able to submit three requests to be considered for the WRDA of 2022. My submissions are as follows, in no particular order:

**1) An Army Corps of Engineers study of the replacement and reconstruction of the bulkhead system at John J. Burns Park of Oyster Bay, New York**

The Town of Oyster Bay has experienced significant flooding around Burns Park. To address these flood risks, the town is interested in pursuing the proper process to have the Army Corps of Engineers to consider the replacement and reconstruction of the bulkhead system along the western and southern property boundary of John J. Burns Park. The study and consideration of the project would potentially lead to the replacement of the bulkhead, tieback capping and safety railing system, along with other site restoration. This study request is to determine if such a project would provide significant impact to the shoreline's resilience to future climate change and hurricane and flood risk management.

**2) An Army Corps of Engineers study of the replacement and reconstruction of the bulkhead system at the Joseph J. Saladino Memorial Marina of Oyster Bay, New York**

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The Town of Oyster Bay, to mitigate any future hurricane and storm damage, seeks the replacement and reconstruction of the bulkhead system of the Joseph J. Saladino Memorial Marina. The study would determine if the replacement of the bulkhead, tieback capping, restoration of utilities to existing floating docks and further site restoration would positively impact shoreline resilience and hurricane and major storm risk reduction.

**3) Study by the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the viability and eligibility of designating the Connetquot River and Greene's Creek in the Town of Islip of Suffolk County, New York as federal navigable waterways eligible for dredging project.**

Currently, the Connetquot River is recognized by the State of New York as a Wild, Scenic and Recreational River. I have many constituents who use the river and creek for recreational purposes to access the Great South Bay. Many of those constituents have shared their concerns about the navigability of the waterways. This study request is for the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best course of action for the health and safety of the river and creek's water environment and to better manage the mineral build up that prevents safe and accessible navigation of the area.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration of my priorities for WRDA to improve the economic outlook and shoreline resilience of my district. As always, I look forward to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the years to come to ensure Long Island's south shore is ready to face the challenges brought by climate change and unpredictable storms and flooding that so often plagues my shoreline communities.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress