

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM H. “BUTCH” GRAHAM, JR.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS**

BEFORE

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

ON

**PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT
OF 2026 – ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES**

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Chairman Collins, Ranking Member Wilson, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Before I proceed with my testimony, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Congressman Doug LaMalfa of California, who passed earlier this year. He was not only an esteemed member of this committee, but also a dedicated public servant whose contributions to water resources policy will have a lasting impact on our Nation.

I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with Mr. Adam Telle, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, regarding the development of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026. I look forward to continuing our work with this committee, the Congress, and the Administration to help address the Nation's water resources challenges.

Through the Civil Works Program, the Corps works with other Federal agencies, and with state, Tribal, and local agencies and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides high economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

The authorizations and funding that Congress provides to the Corps allow us to advance our three main missions of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, as well as support related project purposes, such as water supply, hydropower, and recreation. The Civil Works program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within these three main mission areas. The Corps uses its engineering expertise and relationships with project sponsors and other stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to address some of the most pressing water resources challenges facing the Nation. Since 2014, the Congress has passed a WRDA bill every two years to address evolving water resources issues.

WRDA 2024 advances the Corps' principal Civil Works missions. The legislation reinforces the Corps' partnership with non-federal sponsors by refining existing programs, while introducing new tools to enhance coordination with non-federal partners, improve project delivery, and address evolving national priorities.

To promote long-term infrastructure resilience and to support coastal and riverine communities, WRDA 2024 provides expanded authority for forecast-informed reservoir operations and supports beneficial use of dredged material for shoreline restoration and flood risk reduction. It also authorizes recurring coastal mapping activities to ensure timely data for navigation safety and storm preparedness. Across all mission areas, WRDA 2024 includes provisions to streamline project implementation, facilitate crediting

for non-federal contributions such as technical models, and improve transparency in project prioritization, strengthening the Corps ability to deliver safe, high-quality water resources infrastructure that supports both local communities and national economic interests.

My primary commitment is the successful execution of the Army Civil Works Program, ensuring projects are completed safely, on schedule, and within budget. I remain focused on implementing strategies to make our project delivery more efficient and our cost estimates more reliable. By improving our initial planning and design phases and applying rigorous risk management, we are enhancing the accuracy of our timelines and budgets. Furthermore, we are boosting our engagement with industry partners through early collaboration and market research to align our goals and secure more competitive proposals.

A successful Civil Works program depends on efficient project delivery and close partnerships with stakeholders at all levels. We are actively refining the early stages of our projects and managing risks to ensure every infrastructure investment delivers net national benefits cost-effectively. Ultimately, these priorities mean a better deal for the taxpayer and a better future for all Americans.

Thank you, Chairman Collins, Ranking Member Wilson, and Members of the Subcommittee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you or other Members of the Subcommittee may have.