

## United States Senate

November 1, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

I write today to request that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works include language in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act legislation authorizing critical United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) civil works projects in New Hampshire.

The Granite State is a coastal state, and navigable harbors are important to the success and commercial viability of our fisherman, our tourism industry, and our ports that make a valuable contribution to the economy of New England and the country as a whole. To that end, my request to the Committee includes reauthorization of USACE programs that support activities to dredge Rye Harbor and Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River. USACE has already begun working with other federal agencies and New Hampshire state agencies to study and plan portions of those projects, and it is vital that the joint state-federal efforts to advance continue. It is not only financially prudent to complete these projects in the near term, since state and federal resources have already been invested in them, but New Hampshire and the New England region would be well served by the completion of the projects in the long-term because they will sustain industries that spur economic growth.

The aforementioned navigation projects are vital to New Hampshire, and I appreciate the consideration. However, in order for those projects success to be fully realized, USACE must be authorized to continue using the Isles of Shoals North Disposal Site, previously identified as a viable dredged material disposal site by USACE and the Environmental Protection Agency. The authorization to use that site lapses in 2021, and, as noted by those agencies, the site can serve USACE projects across Maine, New Hampshire, and northern Massachusetts. Extended USACE authority to use the Isle of Shoals site is a common-sense step that would go a long way towards supporting current and future USACE projects for northern New England states.

Finally, I would request that the Committee consider the inclusion of language authorizing USACE to develop a resilience improvement program, for it important to build and retrofit

severity of extreme weather events. Coastal states like New Hampshire face threats to their coastal communities and infrastructure, and states in our heartland must grapple with challenges including dangerous meteorological events and mitigating risks from flood plains. By permitting USACE to proactively develop strategies and allocate funds to ensuring that future infrastructure projects are constructed with resiliency in mind, our communities will be safer and the long-term maintenance and repair costs of USACE projects will be reduced.

It is my belief that the priorities I have communicated to you represent a sound investment in USACE resources and will not just benefit communities in my state of New Hampshire, but strengthen the national economy and contribute to the common good.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and please have your staff contact Nicholas Malatesta at (202) 224-3627 or [Nicholas\\_Malatesta@Hassan.Senate.Gov](mailto:Nicholas_Malatesta@Hassan.Senate.Gov) if you have any questions.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator