

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 8, 2020

Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for the immense bipartisan effort of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the development and advancement of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. As organizations heavily invested in the resilience of the New York-New Jersey region, this bill contains multiple vital provisions that will advance resilience in the region, create jobs, and spur the economic recovery that is desperately needed.

We strongly support how well the bill prioritizes the use of natural and nature-based features that provide flood risk reduction while also providing ecosystem services to communities, such as fish and wildlife habitat, recreational and commercial opportunities and clean water. We support the effort of the bill to begin to address historical and ongoing flood equity issues for disadvantaged and repetitive loss communities. The Principles and Requirements are a key element to upgrade the Corps' planning processes and Section 113 ensures these planning efforts account for sea level rise and future scenarios based on best available science.

For the New York-New Jersey region, we applaud the inclusion of expanded authorization of the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study (NYNJHATS) to include the evaluation and development of solutions to low-frequency precipitation events and sea-level rise and consultation with affected communities. We thank the committees for working with the NY-NJ delegation to ensure a comprehensive study that can build resilience for decades to come. We also applaud the authorization of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration at over \$421 million, in addition to a wide range of additional authorizations for the implementation or study of storm risk management, beneficial use of dredged material and ecosystem restoration throughout the New York-New Jersey region. These efforts are imperative to the future of the NY-NJ region and the 16 million people who live and work there.

We strongly support passage of this bipartisan bill through the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thank you for your continued commitment to resilience nationally, and specifically in the NY-NJ region.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Chairman Barrasso, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Carper, and Ranking Member Graves
New York and New Jersey Congressional Delegation

Alice Blank
Alice Blank, Architect

Don Riepe
Director, Northeast Chapter
American Littoral Society

Katie Mosher
Director of Restoration
Billion Oyster Project

Julian Clayton
Deputy Director
Center for NYC Neighborhoods

Janice Barnes
Founder
Climate Adaptation Partners

Felicia Young
Founder/Executive Director
Earth Celebrations Inc.

Peter McCartt
Chairman of the Board
Eastchester Environmental
Committee

Shimrit Perkol-Finkel
CEO
ECONcrete Inc

Natalie Snider
Senior Director,
Coastal Resilience
Environmental Defense Fund

Anne Jaffe Holmes
Program Director
Federated Conservationists of
Westchester County

Brian Johnson
VP of Sales
Fenex

Catherine Hughes
Executive Committee
Financial District Neighborhood
Association

Roderick Scott
Board Chair
Flood Mitigation Industry
Association

Katherine Conkling Thompson
Co-Chair
Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park

Michelle Doran McBean
Executive Director
Future City Inc.

Brad Vogel
Captain
Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club

Brigitte Griswold
Executive Director
Groundwork Hudson Valley

Captain Bill Sheehan
Executive Director
Hackensack Riverkeeper

Manna Jo Greene
Environmental Director
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Elise Morrison
Board Trustee
Hudson River Waterfront
Conservancy

Sarah Charlop-Powers
Executive Director
Natural Areas Conservancy

Peter Kasabach
Executive Director
New Jersey Future

Keith Adams
Executive Director
New Jersey VOAD

The Hon. Carlina Rivera
Council Member
NYC Council District 2

Lynn Kelly
Executive Director
New York Restoration Project
(NYRP)

Willis Elkins
Executive Director
Newtown Creek Alliance

Shino Tanikawa
Executive Director
NYC Soil & Water
Conservation District

Iris Hiskey Arno &
Natalie Polvere
Co-chairs, Environment
Committee
NYCD16 Indivisible

Jonathan Gaffney
Deputy Executive Director
Ocean Bay CDC

Del Bobish
General Manager
Red Hook Terminals

Robert Freudenberg
Vice President,
Energy & Environment
Regional Plan Association

Kate Boicourt
Campaign Director
Rise to Resilience

Jeremy Cherson
Legislative Advocacy Manager
Riverkeeper

Judah Asimov
Senior Manager
Planning and Outreach
Rockaway Initiative for
Sustainability & Equity (RISE)

Tracy Brown
Regional Director, Water
Protection
Save the Sound

Wynn-Fred Victor Hinds
Executive Director
Stepping Stones Resources

Malcolm Bowman
Chair
Storm Surge Working Group

Julie A. Welch
Program Manager
Stormwater Infrastructure
Matters (SWIM) Coalition

Melissa Everett, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Sustainable Hudson Valley

Carter Strickland
New York State Director
The Trust for Public Land

Kathy O'Connor
Member
Tivoli Green Committee

Trever Holland
President
TUFF-LES (Tenants United
Fighting for the Lower East
Side)

Cortney Worrall
President and CEO
Waterfront Alliance