

RISE TO RESILIENCE

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR FUTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT: NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY COALITION SECURES KEY PRIORITIES IN THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

As the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 passes the House of Representatives with bipartisan support, today marks a major win for Congress and the Rise to Resilience coalition in its fight to build resilience to climate change in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region.

The legislation, authorizing \$9.9 billion in federal funds for 46 US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) flood control, environmental restoration, coastal protection, and other projects, will bring jobs, coastal risk reduction, and nature's benefits to the metropolitan region at a time when a resilient recovery is needed more than ever.

Following a 10-years long planning process led by the Corps, the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program, and The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan) and the abrupt halting of a coastal risk study led by the Corps (New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study) in February, both are now included in the bill that passed the House today and expected to move forward through the Senate before the end of the year.

The Rise to Resilience coalition worked with Congress to introduce legislation and ensure priority language and projects were included in the Act. Secured successfully in bill are:

- \$421 million for habitat restoration through authorization of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan. The recommended Plan includes restoration at 20 project locations that will restore a mosaic of 621 acres of habitat reducing long-term and large-scale degradation.
- Expanded authorization to the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study to better address sea level rise and engage communities, particularly communities of color, Tribes, and low-income communities
- Authorization for the Corps to revise existing planning guidance documents and regulations to consider sea level rise and inland flooding for **ALL** future water resources development projects and to ensure that these documents and regulations are based on the best available, peer-reviewed science and data.
- Increased ability to coordinate across agencies and levels of government, including the use of data developed by state and other agencies where appropriate.

- Reforms to Corps principles and requirements to better incorporate climate change, environmental justice, and environmental impacts.
- Provisions to increase the use of natural and nature-based approaches to flood resilience

The Rise to Resilience Coalition sent a letter to the delegation [today with 45 supporting organizations](#) and urges swift full passage by the Senate.

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Rise to Resilience is a campaign and coalition of residents, leaders in business, labor community and justice, volunteer organizations, scientists, environmental advocates, and design professionals collectively calling on our federal, state, and local governments to make building climate resilience an urgent priority in 2020 and beyond. The Rise to Resilience campaign is spearheaded by the Waterfront Alliance.