

Ashley St. Jean

From: McBride, Erin (Murphy) <Erin_McBride@murphy.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 3:28 PM
Subject: WRDA 2026 Solicitations
Attachments: WRDA 2026 Solicitation Letter final.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Our office and Senator Blumenthal's office is soliciting projects for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The bill will authorize Army Corps-related water resources projects such as dams, levees, shore protection, dredging, and ecosystem replenishment. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has asked each senator to provide the committee with a list of Army Corps-related water resources priorities for consideration in the bill. In accordance with that request, we are seeking information about any projects in your community that you believe the Army Corps should make part of its program and be authorized under WRDA.

Please see the attached letter for information on how to submit a request and other important guidelines.

Thank you,

Erin

Erin E. McBride – *she/her/hers*
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Hartford, CT 06106
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2025

Dear Mayor or First Selectman,

The United States Senate is beginning consideration of legislation governing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Army Corps) civil works program, commonly known as the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Congress traditionally passes this measure every two years, most recently in 2024. The bill will authorize Army Corps-related water resources projects such as dams, levees, shore protection, dredging, and ecosystem replenishment.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has asked each senator to provide the committee with a list of Army Corps-related water resources priorities for consideration in the bill. In accordance with that request, we are seeking information about any projects in your community that you believe the Army Corps should make part of its program and be authorized under WRDA.

As background, the Army Corps has a wide-ranging mission that involves commercial navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem protection and restoration on many rivers and bodies of water nationwide. The first step in making a project part of the Army Corps' program is congressional authorization of an investigation, or feasibility study, that the Army Corps must complete within three years of authorization. Upon completion of the investigation, Congress must authorize and appropriate funding for the actual project. The vast majority of Army Corps projects require a non-federal, cost-sharing partner for both the investigation and construction phases.

It bears repeating that the passage of an authorization in WRDA does not guarantee funding for that project. Rather, an authorization is a necessary – but far from final – step in the process of getting federal funding. Put another way, an authorization allows for the possibility of funding, but the funding for the project is contingent on the availability of appropriations. We do not say this to discourage you from submitting projects you believe are appropriate, but rather to set realistic expectations regarding the length and complexity of the process necessary to ultimately receive funding for a project.

For the purposes of this request, we are looking for projects that municipal and state leaders believe are: (1) appropriate for a feasibility study, (2) a priority for the community, and (3) ones which the community would be willing to allocate a 50 percent local match of the total cost of the study. Once completed, if Congress appropriates funding for the project in question, the federal government will pay between 20 percent and 100 percent of the total construction costs, depending on the project's criteria.

For projects that have already had a WRDA feasibility study, we are also accepting construction, operations and maintenance, and other project requests. If your town or organization has such a project you would like to move forward, please share that information.

Finally, if there are any projects in other stages of development or other Army Corps-related matters that affect your community that Congress should address, please let us know.

Any project that you submit must be within the scope of responsibility of the Army Corps. You should contact the Army Corps to ensure that a project complies with this requirement. You can contact the Army Corps at the following offices (note that Southwestern Connecticut is served by the New York office):

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
Phone: (978) 318-8238

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
Phone: (917) 790-8007

To submit a request, please e-mail both our offices: (1) a detailed description of the proposed project; (2) the contact information for an individual we can call for more details about the project, if necessary; (3) an acknowledgement that the Army Corps has verified this project is within its scope of responsibilities; and (4) any additional supporting documentation by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2026. Please submit as much detail and documentation about the project as possible. WRDA is incredibly technical, and the more information we have, the better we can determine and make the case for your project's eligibility. This information should be sent to both <WRDARRequests@blumenthal.senate.gov> and <WRDAResources@murphy.senate.gov>. Our offices coordinate the review of the Connecticut WRDA applications and will jointly submit Connecticut's projects to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Providing this information does not commit the community to paying for the study or construction costs; rather, it simply helps our offices get a greater understanding of our state's water resources needs and priorities so we can share those with the committee drafting the bill and pursue funding opportunities. There will be future opportunities to provide further information as the process moves forward. If you have any additional questions, you may contact the e-mail addresses above.

We look forward to hearing from you on this and other matters where we may be able to assist your community.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate