



## H.R. 8 — Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (Rep. Shuster, R-PA)

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### FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on June 6, 2017, subject to a [rule](#), which makes 52 amendments in order. *Amendments will be covered in a future Legislative Bulletin.*

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 [Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019.

The Rules Committee Print modifies the bill reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to strike a provision that would have converted spending from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to mandatory spending from discretionary.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 8](#) would authorize Army Corps of Engineers water projects as well as feasibility studies. The bill would deauthorize \$3 billion worth of previously authorized projects and make a number of other changes to Army Corps policies. The bill would also rescind the authorization for projects authorized by this bill after 10 years unless funds have been obligated.

### COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 8, as reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, would cost \$1.1 billion over the next five years and \$2.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period, subject to appropriation. The bill would also provide for the deauthorization of old, unfunded projects with an estimated authorization level of \$3 billion. Because the deauthorized projects have not been funded, CBO projects deauthorizing them will have no budgetary effect.

The bill would also increase direct spending by \$5 million over the 2019-2028 period.

The CBO states the bill would “increase direct spending by more than \$2.5 billion and on budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in at least one of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029, by authorizing the Corps to spend amounts in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund without further appropriation”. However, this provision was removed in the [Rules Committee Print](#) of the bill that will be considered by the House.

### CONSERVATIVE VIEWPOINTS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would increase authorizations for water resources projects and other programs, including the high hazard potential dams program and the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program. The bill would also provide for the deauthorization of older projects that have not been funded.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** [Some conservatives](#) may believe that the types of projects authorized by the bill may be more appropriately funded by state and local governments or the private sector. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has [made the case](#) for a federal role.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No, the bill follows a process established by Congress to fund specific projects evaluated and reported by the Army Corps of Engineers.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

### Title I – General Provisions

**Sense of Congress:** The bill would express the sense of Congress that a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill should be considered during every Congress.

**Levee Safety Initiative Reauthorization:** The bill would reauthorize the [Levee Safety Initiative](#) through 2023.

**National Dam Safety Program:** The bill would reauthorize the [National Dam Safety Program](#) through 2023.

**Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams:** The bill would increase the cost limitation for any single dam project from \$10 M to \$40 M. Accordingly, the bill increases the authorization for the rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams program from \$10 M to \$40 M.

*Some conservatives may be concerned that this would increase authorized spending by \$225 million over the ten-year period beginning in 2019, according to the CBO [estimate](#).*

**Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations:** The bill would require the secretary to submit a report to Congress on the results of the forecast-informed reservoir operations research study pilot [program](#) at Coyote Valley Dam at the Russian River Basin in California.

**Nonpowered Dams for Hydropower Development:** The bill would require the secretary, within 18 months of enactment, to develop a list of Corps-operated dams that have the greatest potential for hydropower development. The list must be submitted to Congress, and made available to the public.

**Emergency Response to Federal Disasters:** Under current law, the Chief of Engineers may use the emergency fund to rebuild hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects that have been damaged by natural disasters to the design level of protection. The bill would require these project be built to either the pre-storm level, or design level, whichever provides the greater protection.

**Integrated Water Resources Planning:** The bill would require the secretary to consult with local governments when conducting a water resources development feasibility study to determine if local water management plans exist.

**Mitigation Banks:** The bill would require the secretary to issue guidance related to the use of mitigation banks to meet water resources development projects requirements in order to update mitigation bank credit release schedules.

**Columbia River:** The bill would allow the secretary to provide housing and related assistance to the Department of the Interior to Indian tribes displaced as a result of the construction of the [Bonneville Dam](#) in Oregon. The bill would require the secretary conduct a survey to determine the displacement of Indian tribes resulting from the construction of [John Day Dam](#) in Washington and Oregon, and, based on the study, the secretary may provide assistance to the tribes. The bill would also require the secretary complete a village development plan for all Indian tribes displaced as a result of the [Dalles Dam](#) in Washington and Oregon.

**Dissemination of Process Information:** The bill would require the secretary to develop and implement education efforts to ensure non-federal interests and local elected officials are aware of the annual [Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development](#) process.

**Non-Federal Engagement and Review:** The bill would require the secretary to issue a public notice prior to issuing implementation guidance for a covered water resources development law. The secretary would be required to take into input and recommendations provided to the secretary prior to finalizing guidance.

**Comprehensive Backlog Report:** The bill would require the secretary to publish a list of major federal operation and maintenance needs of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects. This list, along with a list of projects that have been authorized but not completed, must be submitted to Congress biennially.

**Transparency in Administrative Expenses:** The bill would require the secretary to carry out the study with the National Academy of Public Administration on the efficiency of the Corps Engineers current staff salaries and administrative expense procedures as compared to using a separate administrative expense account within one year of enactment.

**Study of the Future of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** The bill would require the secretary, with the National Academy of Sciences, to convene a committee of experts to carry out a study on the effects of moving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers out of the Department of Defense. The study must consider national security effects, the ability of the Corps to assist operations of the U.S. Armed Services, and the emergency response obligations of the Corps. The National Academy of Sciences is required to consult with the Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Management and Budget, professional and NGO organizations, and the appropriate Congressional committees. The results of the study must be submitted to Congress within two years.

**Acknowledgement of Credit:** The bill would allow the secretary to provide credit for work carried out between November 8, 2007 and the date of enactment by a non-federal interest for a project if the work is integral to the project and was carried out according to appropriate federal laws.

**Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program:** The bill would reauthorize the non-federal implementation pilot program authorized under [33 U.S.C. 2201 note](#) through 2023.

**Water Resources Development Projects by Non-Federal Interests:** The bill would amend the feasibility study of a proposed water resources development project authorized under [33 U.S.C. 2231](#). The bill would prohibit the secretary from delaying completion of the review of the feasibility study as a result of considering policy changes. The secretary would be allowed to expend funds to undertake reviews and activities that are the responsibility of the secretary in providing technical assistance. The secretary is requiring to ensure the use of funds accepted from non-federal interests do not affect impartial decision making.

The bill would not require certain projects constructed by non-federal interests to obtain federal permits that would not be required if the project was being carried out by the federal government, unless new information or circumstances that are relevant to environmental concerns have since the project recommendation.

**Advanced Funds for Water Resources Development Studies and Projects:** The bill would extend the provision outlined in [33 U.S.C. 701h-1](#) that allows the Corps to accept advanced funds from non-federal interests. The provision is currently available to floor-control projects and the bill would extend this provision to all water resource development studied and projects.

**Funding to Process Permits:** The bill would extend a provision under [33 U.S.C. 2352](#), which currently allows the secretary to accept and expend funds contributed by a non-federal public entity or a public-utility company, natural gas company, or railroad carrier to expedite permits related to a project for a public purpose under the Department of the Army's jurisdiction. The provision is currently set to expire in 2024. The bill would extend the provision through 2026. The GAO is required to complete a follow-up study related to the implementation of this provision by June 10, 2018. The bill would extend the completion timeline to December 31, 2022.

**Study on Economic and Budgetary Analyses:** The bill would require the secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study on the principles and methodologies used by the Corps to formulate and budget for water resources development projects and to make recommendations to Congress on how to improve transparency, return on investment, and cost savings. The report on the study must be made available to the public and submitted to Congress.

The bill expresses the Sense of Congress that the President, with the Corps, should submit a budget to Congress that aligns the cost-benefit ratio with that used by the Corps and demonstrates the transparency used in selecting water resources development projects that are submitted as part of the budget request.

**Study of Corrosion Management at Corps of Engineers Projects:** The bill would require the Comptroller to submit to Congress a study of corrosion management efforts at Corps projects and properties.

**Costs in Excess of Federal Participation Limit:** Current law authorizes the Secretary of the Army to spend up to \$20M for the construction, repair, restoration, and modification of emergency streambank and shoreline protection works to prevent damage to highways, bridge approaches, and public works, churches, hospitals, schools, and other nonprofit public services. No more than \$5 million may be used for any single locality in a fiscal year. The bill would clarify that the non-federal interest is responsible for costs above \$5 million.

**Report on Innovative Materials:** The bill would require the secretary to submit to Congress a report that describes the activities conducted by the Corps in relation to the use of innovative materials in water resources development projects.

**Corps of Engineers Study:** The bill would require the GAO to submit to Congress a report on the preparedness of the Corps workforce and an assessment and recommendations related to the technologies used by the Corps.

**GAO Study:** The bill would require the GAO to submit a report to Congress on the Corps' consideration of natural features when studying the feasibility of projects for flood risk management, hurricane and storm damage reduction and ecosystem restoration.

**GAO Report on Alaska Native Village Relocation:** The bill would require the GAO to submit a report to Congress on the efforts to relocate Alaska Native villages due to flooding and erosion threats that updates the

report [Alaska Native Villages: Limited Progress Has Been Made on Relocating Villages Threatened by Flooding and Erosion](#).

**Study and Report on Expediting Certain Waiver Processes:** The bill would require the secretary to complete a report to Congress based on the best options available to implement the waiver process for the non-federal cost share codified under [Public Law 111-85](#).

**Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program:** The bill would increase the authorization for the Corps of Engineers [Continuing Authorities Program](#) from \$50M to \$62.5M. This program allows for the construction of small river and harbor improvement projects that have not been authorized by Congress if the project will result in substantial benefits to navigation. The bill would also increase the amount that can be allotted for one locality from \$10M to \$12.5M.

*Some conservatives may be concerned that this would increase authorized spending by \$108 million over the ten-year period beginning in 2019, according to the CBO [estimate](#).*

**Credit in Lieu of Reimbursement:** The bill would allow the secretary to provide a credit to a nonfederal interest instead of a reimbursement for certain flood damage reduction projects, or coastal navigation projects, if requested by the nonfederal interest. The credit may be applied to the share of the cost of the nonfederal interest in carrying out other flood damage reduction and coastal navigation projects or studies, at the nonfederal interest's request.

**Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Review:** The bill would require the Corps to expedite completion of the [Lake Okeechobee](#) regulation schedule to coincide with the completion of the [Hebert Hoover Dike](#) project. Furthermore, the Corps would be required to consider the [Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan](#).

**Missouri River:** The bill would require the secretary to submit to Congress a report on the impacts of interception-rearing complex construction on navigation and flood control, as set forth in the [Missouri River Master Manual](#) and on the pallid sturgeon population recovery. The bill would prevent addition interception-rearing complex construction until the report is completed.

**Access to Real Estate Data:** The bill would require the secretary to make information related to all real property the Corps holds an interest in publically available.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Research:** The bill would require the secretary to research the management and eradication of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp and zebra mussels, and submit a plan to address the impacts of aquatic invasive species to Congress.

**Harmful Algal Bloom Technology Demonstration:** The bill would require the secretary to implement a 5-year harmful algal bloom technology development demonstration under the [Aquatic Nuisance Research Program](#).

**Bubbly Creek, Chicago Ecosystem Restoration:** The bill would require the secretary to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the EPA to facilitate ecosystem restoration at [Bubbly Creek](#).

**Operation and Maintenance of Navigation and Hydroelectric Facilities:** The bill would exclude navigation facilities that were under contract on or before the date of the enactment with a non-federal interest to perform operations or maintenance under [33 U.S.C. 2321](#) from being considered inherently governmental functions, and not commercial activities. The secretary would be prohibited from contracting commercial facilities at a navigation facility after the date of enactment.

**Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction:** Current law allows the secretary to conduct a study considering the feasibility of extending beach nourishment projects for an additional 15 years beyond the codified limit, which is 50 years after the construction begins. The bill would clarify that the additional 15 years begins on the date beach nourishment began.

**Post-Disaster Watershed Assessments in U.S. Territories:** The bill would require all post-disaster watershed assessment activities carried out in a territory to be conducted at full federal expense, unless the President determines the territory has the ability to pay for the cost share without the use of federal funds or loans.

## **Title II – Studies**

**Proposed Feasibility Studies:** The bill would allow the Corps to conduct a feasibility study for each of the ten projects listed below, as [submitted](#) in the 2017 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development and the 2018 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development:

1. [Cave Buttes Dam in Phoenix, Arizona](#): flood risk management
2. [San Diego River in San Diego, California](#): flood risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration
3. [J. Bennett Johnston Waterway in Louisiana](#): navigation
4. [Northshore in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana](#): flood risk management
5. [Ouachita-Black Rivers in Little River, Louisiana](#): navigation
6. [Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua, New York](#): ecosystem restoration and flood risk management
7. [Trinity River and Tributaries in Liberty, Texas](#): navigation
8. [West Cell Levee in Irving, Texas](#): flood risk management
9. [Coastal Virginia in Coastal, Virginia](#): flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and navigation
10. [Tangier Island in Tangier Island, Virginia](#): flood risk management and ecosystem restoration

### **Additional Studies:**

[Lower Mississippi River in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana](#), (ecosystem restoration): The bill would authorize the Corps to carry out studies to determine the feasibility of habitat restoration for the eight reaches that have been identified as priorities in [Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment: Final Assessment in Response to Section 402 of WRDA 2002](#).

[St. Louis Riverfront and Meramec River Basin](#) in Missouri and Illinois (ecosystem restoration and flood risk management): The bill would also authorize the Corps to carry out studies to determine the feasibility of a project for ecosystem restoration and flood risk management in: (1) Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe Counties in Illinois; and, (2) St. Louis, Jefferson, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Phelps, Crawford, Dent, Washington, Iron, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Osage, Reynolds, and Texas Counties in Missouri.

**Expedited Completion of Reports for Certain Projects:** The bill would require the Corps to expedite the completion of the following feasibility studies, and may proceed to preconstruction planning, engineering and design of the project if the project is deemed justified:

1. [Selma, Alabama](#): riverbank stabilization
2. [Three Mile Creek, Alabama](#): ecosystem restoration
3. [Nome, Alaska](#): navigation
4. [Seward, Alaska](#): flood diversion
5. [Three Rivers, Arkansas](#): navigation
6. [Coyote Valley Dam, California](#): flood control and water conservation
7. [Lower Cache Creek, California](#): flood risk management
  - For this project, the bill would require the Corps to review and give priority to plans and designs requested by non-federal interests and incorporate them into the federal study, if they are consistent with federal standards.

8. [Lower San Joaquin River, California](#): flood risk management
9. [South San Francisco, California](#): flood risk management
10. [Tijuana River, California](#): flood risk management and ecosystem restoration
11. [East Hartford, Connecticut](#): flood risk management
12. Hartford, Connecticut: risk management
13. [Delaware River Basin](#): comprehensive flood mitigation study
14. [Lake Apopka, Florida](#): ecosystem restoration
15. [Kansas River Weir, Kansas](#): ecosystem restoration
16. [Fern Ridge, Oregon](#): water resource improvements
17. [Brownsville, Texas](#): ecosystem restoration
18. [Norfolk Harbor, Virginia](#): navigation
19. [Norfolk, Virginia](#): coastal storm risk management
20. [Tacoma Harbor, Washington](#): navigation

The bill would require the secretary to expedite completion of a post-authorization change report for the following projects:

1. [Lower San Joaquin River in California](#)
2. [San Luis Rey River Flood Control Protection Project, California](#)
3. [Success Reservoir Enlargement Project, California](#)
4. [Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, Florida](#)
5. [Sault Saint Marie, Michigan](#): navigation

The bill would prohibit the Corps from completing a study for the [Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam](#) project until a report is submitted to Congress on the feasibility of modifying the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam to preserve recreational opportunities and the ecosystem's health, to maintain the benefits to the natural ecosystem and human environment, and the preservation of any portion of the lock and dam to maintain flood control.

### **Title III – Deauthorizations, Modifications, and Related Provisions**

**Deauthorizations:** The bill would require the secretary to develop an interim deauthorization list that identifies: (1) each water resources development project that was authorized before November 8, 2007 that has not begun construction, or no federal or non-federal funds have been obligated in the last six fiscal years; (2) each project identified and included on a list to Congress for reauthorization, as required under [33 U.S.C. 579a\(b\)\(2\)](#); and, (3) any project for which the non-federal sponsor submits a request for inclusion. After a public comment period, the secretary is required to submit a revised list to the appropriate Congressional committees, and develop a final deauthorization list. The final list must have an estimated federal cost of completion of at least \$3 billion.

**Backlog Prevention:** The bill would rescind the authorization for the projects authorized by this bill after ten years unless funds have been obligated for construction or a post-authorization study, or the authorization has been modified by a subsequent Act of Congress. The bill requires the Corps to submit a report to Congress in 12 years that includes: (1) a list of water resources development projects for which construction has not been completed; (2) reasons why the projects were not completed; (3) a schedule for completion based on expected appropriation levels; and, (4) a five and ten-year projection on construction backlog and mitigation recommendations.

**Project Modifications:** The bill makes the following modifications, which are consistent with the [Reports to Congress on Future Water Resources Development](#):

1. [Harbor and South Bay, California](#): increased funding from \$35 million to \$70 million
2. [Lakes Marion and Moultrie, South Carolina](#): increased funding from \$60 million to \$89.55 million

**Milwaukee Harbor:** The bill would deauthorize a portion of the Milwaukee Harbor [project](#) for navigation.

**Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut:** The bill would deauthorize a portion of the Bridgeport Harbor [project](#) for navigation.

**Conveyances:** The bill would allow the secretary to convey 9.19 acres of real property to Cheatham County, Tennessee. The land is part of the Cheatham lock and Dam [project](#). The bill retains the U.S.'s right to inundate the land with water. Cheatham County is required to pay the fair market value for the land and the conveyance is subject to existing easements, rights-of-way and leases.

The bill would also allow the secretary to convey 5 acres of real property to the City of Nashville, Tennessee. The land is part of the [Riverfront Park Recreational Development](#). Should the city cease to maintain improvements for recreation included in the conveyance or use the property for purposes other than recreation and flood risk management, the city is required to repay the federal cost share of construction recreation improvements. The city is required to pay all reasonable and necessary costs of conveyance.

**Clatsop County, Oregon:** The bill would deauthorize the Clatsop County project to raise and improve levees.

**Kissimmee River Restoration:** The bill would allow the Corps to credit certain work toward the non-federal share of the Kissimmee River [project](#). According to the CBO report, the Corps has previously determined that certain in-kind contributions were ineligible as qualifying credit towards the local cost share. The credit for these contributions would total \$6 million, according to the CBO [report](#).

**Lytle and Cajorn Creeks, California:** The bill would deauthorize a portion of the Lytle and Cajon Creeks channel improvement project.

**Yuba River Basin, California:** The bill would modify the Yuba River Basin project for flood damage to allow a non-federal interest to construct a new levee to connect the existing levee with high ground. The non-federal cost of constructing the levee shall be 100 percent.

#### **Title IV – Water Resources Infrastructure**

The bill would authorize the following projects, as [submitted](#) in the 2017 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development and the 2018 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development:

##### **Navigation**

##### **[Galveston Harbor Channel Extension Project, Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels](#)**

**Federal Costs: \$10,046,000 / Total Costs: \$13,395,000**

This project would deepen 2,571 feet of the existing Galveston Harbor Channel by 5 feet, increasing navigation efficiency for deep draft vessels. According to the Corps, the deepening would allow dock facility users to fully load vessels, as they are currently unable to do.

##### **Flood Risk Management**

##### **[Mamaroneck-Sheldrake Rivers](#), New York**

**Federal Costs: \$53,500,000 / Total Costs: \$82,250,000**

Frequent severe floods have caused extensive damage and loss of life in the Village of Mamaroneck; a result of low channel capacity, small bridge openings, developmental encroachment along both rivers, urbanization and a poor flow conveyance at the confluence of both rivers. The project would deepen and widen 7,5000 feet of channels along the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers.



[Ala Wai Canal](#), Hawai'i

**Federal Cost: \$198,962,000 / Total Cost: \$306,095,000**

The Ala Wai Canal is a two-mile canal which was created to drain the wetlands that was once Waikiki, creating the tourist destination it is today. According to the Corps, the project would reduce flood risks by improving the flood warning system, and constructing six in-stream debris and detention basins in Makiki, Mānoa and Pālolo streams, one standalone debris catchment feature, three multi-purpose detention areas in open spaces through the watershed, and concrete floodwalls averaging 4 feet high along the canal.

### **Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Projects**

[St. Johns County](#), Florida

**Initial Federal Cost: \$5,712,000 / Initial Total Cost: \$20,276,000**

**Renourishment Federal Cost: \$9,484,000 / Renourishment Total Cost: \$33,020,000**

This beach renourishment project would reduce the risk of coastal damage on 2.6 miles of Vilano Beach and South Ponte Verda Beach. According to the Corps, erosion, inundation and waves have caused storm damage that threatens infrastructure, natural habitat and recreational opportunities. Erosion has also threatened the only north-south hurricane evacuation route for coastal communities. The project would extend the berm by 60-feet and extend the shoreline along 2.6 miles of beach.

[Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay](#), Texas

**Initial Federal Cost: \$2,157,202,000 / Initial Total Cost: \$3,318,772,000**

This project consists of two parts: a storm damage reduction project to protect a developing coastal area in Galveston, and an ecosystem restoration project to protect the largest remaining coastal marsh area, located in Jefferson county. According to the Corps, the storm damage reduction project aims to reduce the impacts of tropical storm surges by constructing a 26.7-mile-long levee/floodwall system, and raise or reconstruct an additional 29.8 miles of existing levee/floodwall systems, install erosion protection and make other improvements to prevent infrastructure damage. The ecosystem restoration project would restore 453 acres of estuarine marsh and preserve 560 acres of forested wetlands in order to mitigate the impacts of the storm damage reduction project.

[St. Lucie County](#), Florida

**Initial Federal Cost: \$7,097,000 / Initial Total: \$3,318,772,000**

**Renourishment Federal Cost: \$8,915,000 / Renourishment Total: \$33,020,000**

This beach renourishment project would reduce the risk of coastal damage on 3.3 miles of beach along South Hutchinson Island reach, where the erosion rate is almost half a foot every year. According to the Corps, erosion, inundation and waves have caused storm damage that threatens infrastructure, natural habitat and recreational opportunities. The project would extend the shoreline along 3.3 miles of shoreline.

### **Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration**

[Española Valley, Rio Grande](#), New Mexico

**Federal Cost: \$40,117,000 / Total Cost: \$61,718,000**

High flows of the Rio Grande in Española Valley, New Mexico, have caused floor damage, including severe degradation and loss of riparian habitat. According to the Corps, this project would rehabilitate the riparian environment, minimize flood risk, increasing human safety, and improve passive recreation

### **Modifications and Other Projects**

### [Savannah Harbor Expansion Project](#)

**Federal Cost: \$677,613,600 / Total Cost: \$973,443,000**

This would authorize an increase in project cost, which is a [result](#) of increased dredging and construction costs, complex designs on unique features, and an extension of the timeline by two years. According to the Corps, the goal of the project is to deepen 39 miles of the Savannah River to allow for larger ships to access the Savannah port.

### [Kentucky River Locks and Dams – 1, 2, 3, and 4](#)

**Federal Cost: \$0 / Total Cost: \$0**

This would allow for the dispossession of Kentucky River Locks and Dams 1, 2, 3, and 4 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Kentucky River Authority, since commercial navigation is no longer conducted. According to the Corps, the Kentucky River Authority will continue to maintain the locks for water supply and recreational use of the river.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 8 was introduced on May 18, 2018 and referred to the committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee held a mark-up on May 23, 2018, and the bill was reported by voice vote.

The report accompanying H.R. 8 (H. Rept. 115-708) can be found [here](#), and is reflective of the version of the bill reported from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Additional resources from the Committee can be found [here](#).

### **OUTSIDE GROUPS:**

[American Petroleum Institute](#)

### **ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy can be found [here](#).

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (related to general Welfare of the United States), and Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes)."

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**NOTE:** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*