



NOR'WESTER



PNWA provisions included as Senate overwhelmingly passes 2007 WRDA bill

Overview

Today, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly voted to approve a 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), by a margin of 91 to 4. PNWA sent a letter of support for the Senate WRDA bill to Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ranking Member James Inhofe (R-OK) last week, and applauds the Senate for passing this important measure. We are especially grateful to our Northwest Congressional delegation, which voted unanimously in support of this bill (H.R.1495), and have been great champions of the WRDA provisions that will impact shippers, ports and the environment in the Northwest (see below).

Since the House has already passed their version of WRDA, a conference committee of select members from the EPW and House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committees will now be named, and will be charged with reconciling the differences between the two bills. The compromise document that is produced will then need to be approved again by both chambers, and only then would it head to the President's desk to be signed into law. This legislation is meant to be biennial, but the last WRDA bill was in 2000.

West coast hopper dredges

Both the House and Senate versions of WRDA contained PNWA's supported language that would remove operating restrictions from the *Essayons* and *Yaquina*. We are pleased that both chambers are in agreement on the *Essayons* and *Yaquina*, with matching language lifting restrictions on the number of days these federal hopper dredges may perform work. For more information on these dredges, visit www.pnwa.net.

Section 214

"Section 214" was first authorized in WRDA 2000, and has been the subject of a great deal of PNWA and stakeholder efforts to avert sunset over the last few years. This authority allows non-federal government entities to provide additional funding for Corps regulatory activities, and is currently authorized through December 31, 2008. PNWA strongly supports the Senate WRDA bill language that would make this authority permanent. The House version of WRDA included an extension of the authority through 2010. PNWA will be urging conferees to accept the Senate WRDA language. To download PNWA's fact sheet on Section 214, please visit www.pnwa.net.

Additional PNWA provisions

Other PNWA-supported provisions contained in the Senate WRDA bill include removal of deed restriction provisions for the Ports of Lewiston, Clarkston and Whitman County, a dredge material placement provision for Puget Island in Wahkiakum County, and an increase in funding authority for Section 107 small navigation improvement projects.

PNWA will be working closely with our West Coast members who serve on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment & Public Works committee to ensure that our supported provisions prevail in the conference committee and become law. To view PNWA's WRDA documents, please visit www.pnwa.net.

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