



Report on Activities From **Washington, D.C.**

Item 6c

November 17, 2025

Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

Legislation & Communications
Committee

Government Shutdown



WRDA 2026 Update



Adam Telle,
Assistant Secretary of
the Army for Civil Works

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8175

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Telle:

As members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, we write to oppose the Administration's plan to pause or cancel U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects exclusively in blue states.¹ This shortsighted attempt to strongarm Democratic lawmakers implodes longstanding foundations of unbiased decision making in the execution of the Corps' civil works program, threatens to undermine the bipartisan support necessary to advance the Water Resources Development Act, and ultimately will hurt red and blue states alike.

While your office has refused to provide additional information on the plan, the Office of Management and Budget indicates that projects will be paused in an effort to "reorient" how the federal government prioritizes Corps projects.² Unilaterally pausing or cancelling the expenditure of funds appropriated for specific projects usurps Congress' constitutional authority to control how the government spends federal dollars. Worse still, OMB's talking points reveal that the Administration plans to reorient priorities not based on any objective criteria but for the sole purpose of exacting partisan political retribution.

The list of states with projects under review—California, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and

¹ On October 17, Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, posted the following on X: "The Democrat shutdown has drained the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to manage billions of dollars in projects. The Corps will be immediately pausing over \$11 billion in lower-priority projects & considering them for cancellation, including projects in New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Baltimore. More information to come from the Army Corps of Engineers."

² Ben Johansen, "White House pauses new round of largely blue-state projects" (Politico, October 17, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/17/white-house-pauses-new-round-of-largely-blue-state-projects-00613875>; Miranda Willson, "White House halts \$11B for water projects in blue states" (E&E News, October 17, 2025), <https://www.eenews.net/articles/white-house-halts-11b-for-water-projects-in-blue-states/>; Amie Grayer, "OMB says in talking points for Capitol Hill that Army Corps of Engineers funding freeze is to 'reorient' federal funding" (CNN, October 20, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/trump-government-shutdown-news-10-20-25?post-id=cmgzbp1wq00113b6nbflr8ew>.

