



Congressman Steve Scalise
Louisiana's First Congressional District

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Passage of WRRDA a Victory for Louisiana Families

Bill will lead to more building, less studying



U.S. Rep. Scalise urges passage of WRRDA on the House Floor (click the image to watch clip)

Washington, DC – Congressman Steve Scalise today issued the following statement after the House passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), which strengthens our nation's transportation infrastructure, modernizes our ports, and authorizes critical hurricane and flood protection projects vital to hundreds of thousands of Southeast Louisiana residents. The WRRDA bill passed the House 412-4.

“Today’s vote is a victory for the people of Southeast Louisiana,” Scalise said. “Moments ago, the House passed legislation which authorizes the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System. One of my top priorities since coming to Congress, this much-needed project will protect over 200,000 families and businesses in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. This project will bring Southeast Louisiana peace of mind, assuring home and business owners that they are no longer as vulnerable to the devastating effects of storms and floods.

“This legislation addresses much of our nation’s important water infrastructure needs. Over 500 million tons of goods are shipped through Louisiana ports every single year – more than any other state in the country. WRRDA makes a long-overdue reinvestment in our ports by authorizing important reforms to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to deepen our waterways and allow America to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

“The important reforms made to the Army Corps of Engineers will lead to more building and less studying. We were able to include language that increases the dredging depth of the Mississippi River to 50 feet so we can create more jobs in America by increasing trade and taking advantage of the expansion of the Panama Canal.

“Passage of this significant piece of legislation could not have been possible without the efforts of Ranking Member Vitter, Chairman Shuster and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation. My thanks go out to Senator Vitter for spearheading the Senate’s water resources bill, which many of his reforms and projects were included in the final Bill. I appreciate the hard work of Chairman Bill Shuster and his committee for fighting to strike a conservative balance by saving taxpayers billions of dollars by eliminating old and outdated projects. Finally, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman Bill Cassidy for joining me on the House floor in October and urging Chairman Shuster to include Morganza in the final WRRDA bill.”

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