



Ecological Restoration Business Association
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To: ERBA Membership, Website and LinkedIn

Re: Bipartisan Infrastructure Package Funds Corps Regulatory & Emerging Market Programs in Coastal Resiliency and Disaster Mitigation

The Ecological Restoration Business Association (ERBA) applauds the Senate's passage of the Investment & Infrastructure Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) today. This significant bill is the product of months of negotiations and a bipartisan commitment to invest in our nation's green infrastructure. Notably, the bill includes substantial five-year funding for the Army Corps' Regulatory program to assist their operations and permitting reviews that are essential to infrastructure development. Over the past two years, ERBA has called on Congress to increase investment in ecological restoration to achieve resiliency outcomes, both independently and through a U.S. Chamber of Commerce led Resiliency Coalition, and has championed a significant increase in the Corps' Regulatory budget to accelerate delivery of mitigation and permitting reviews.

Specifically, ERBA strongly supports the following provisions of the bill, which represent improvements to the existing permitting and mitigation approvals process and emerging market opportunities for the ecological restoration industry:

- \$160 million for the Corps' Regulatory Program: This funding would be available through 9/30/2026 and is in addition to annual funding appropriations.
- \$492 million for the National Coastal Resilience Fund: This fund, administered by NFWF, issues RFPs for consultations and projects to enhance, build, or restore coastal habitats.
- \$500 million to implement the STORM Act: The Act created a resiliency revolving loan fund to incentivize investment in pre-disaster mitigation, including ecological restoration projects.
- \$1 billion for FEMA's BRIC program: This grant program makes funding available to states and localities undertaking hazard mitigation measures, including ecological restoration projects in accordance with FEMA's guidance over the past year recognizing the value of restoration.

ERBA urges the House to also act quickly to pass the Investment & Infrastructure Jobs Act with full funding for the above initiatives. Congress' passage of the bill will accelerate regulators' ability to permit infrastructure project development and incentivize investment in more effective nature-based solutions as a defense to natural disasters. America's ecological restoration industry, vital ecosystems, and local communities all stand to benefit and are ready for Congress to act.
