

## **HOUSE PASSES \$10 BILLION WATER RESOURCES BILL**

July 15, 2005

The House passed a bill on Thursday authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out approximately 700 water resources projects at a cost of \$10 billion.

H.R. 2864, THE Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) OF 2005, was passed Thursday by a vote of 406-14. The Senate has not yet acted on a WRDA bill. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bill estimated at \$7billion in April.

The house defeated, 315-105, an amendment by Reps. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) that would have prohibited the Corps from building seven new locks on the Upper Mississippi at a cost of \$1.8 billion unless the barge traffic were to exceed 35 million tons a year. Of the 257 existing locks on the more than 12,000 miles of inland waterways operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nearly 50 percent are functionally obsolete. By 2020, that number will increase to 80 percent, according to the ASCE 2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure that was issued in March.

Also defeated on a 310-111 vote was an amendment by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) that would have extended the current authority of the U.S. ports and harbors to levy a tax on cargo containers to raise money for land-side infrastructure improvements.

This weekly report is written by the American Society of Civil Engineer's Government Relations staff. If you have any questions or comments about any items in this report please email [govwash@asce.org](mailto:govwash@asce.org) .

