

Demystifying the Federal Appropriations Process

**Briefing for
Small Harbors Association**

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Two Steps

- **It takes two to tango**
- **Authorization provides the authority for projects**
- **Appropriations provides the funding to plan, design, construct, operate and maintain**





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Authority

- **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)**

- **not usually an annual event**
- **project-specific authorities**
- **program-type authorities**
- **Transportation & Infrastructure Committees**



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Appropriations

-
- **Energy & Water Appropriations Act**
 - **annual event (usually)**
 - **fiscal year starts on October 1**
 - **separate from Defense budget**
 - **line item funding for specific projects**
 - **funding for programs**
 - **Appropriations Committee**



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Structure

-
- **House Appropriations Committee**
 - **Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee**

 - **Senate Appropriations Committee**
 - **Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee**



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Process

President's Budget



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Budget Resolution sets limits



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Member Requests to Subcommittee



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Signed by President



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Recent Trends

-
- **More earmarks and namings on programs**
 - **Less and less discretion for agency**



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