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Mississippi River Cities and
Towns Initiative

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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Mississippi River Mayors, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, & American Society of Civil Engineers Celebrate Passage of the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Act

*House of Representatives follows the Senate and Sends Critical New Tool for
Local Resilience to the President's Desk*

Washington, DC - This week, the U.S Congress passed the first and one of the most valuable resilience tools in the federal government—a *Resilience Revolving Loan Fund* for states and local governments. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the bipartisan bill as [S. 3418, STORM Act](#) earlier this month and the House endorsed that passage today. The legislation allows states to offer low-interest loans to counties and cities for disaster mitigation projects.

“We congratulate Representative Angie Craig (MN), Representative Rodney Davis (IL), Senator Ron Johnson (WI), and Senator Gary Peters (MI) for their championship of this cause. Mayors Sean Dowse of Red Wing, MN; Malvin Carter of St. Paul, MN; Tim Kabat of La Crosse, WI; Bob Gallagher of Bettendorf, IA; Mayor Rick Eberlin of Grafton, IL; and Belinda Constant of Gretna, LA all played a tremendous role in leading this important legislation at the local level. We are hopeful the Biden Administration takes notice of this work and moves to create the position of White House Chief Resilience in response,” said **MRCTI Co-Chair, Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA.** “

“We appreciate the work of Representatives Angie Craig and Rodney Davis as well as Senators Johnson and Peters to ensure passage of the STORM Act,” said **Chuck Chaitovitz, vice president for environmental affairs and sustainability at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.** “The STORM Act will help develop smart, modern and resilient infrastructure, and now that the bill has passed both houses of Congress, we encourage the President to sign it into law soon.”

“Congress has prioritized resilient communities by passing the bipartisan STORM Act,” said **Tom Smith, Executive Director, American Society of Civil Engineers.** “ASCE has been proud to partner with Senators Johnson and Peters as well as Representatives Craig and Davis to support this legislation, which is an important step towards improving resilience and planning for communities across the country. As civil engineers, we’re thinking about building infrastructure that will last for 50 to 100 years or more. The opportunity to build strategically is now. We call upon President Trump to quickly sign this critical legislation into law so communities can get the resources they need to prepare, adapt and mitigate, and to quickly recover from the next catastrophic storm.”

Mayors have successfully worked with the U.S. Chamber, ASCE, and the Mississippi River Caucus in the House and Senate to increase investment in predisaster mitigation. However, new programs, increased investment, and congressional action like what we have witnessed today all need management and leadership supported by the full support of the White House if progress is to continue. MRCTI, U.S. Chamber, and ASCE look forward to working with the President-Elect's team on increasing the nation's resilience capacity.

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[The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative](#) (MRCTI) is a coalition of 100 mayors from across the Mississippi River corridor, which spans along ten states from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Mississippi River provides drinking water to more than 20 million people and 50 cities. More than 40 percent of the nation's agricultural commodity output moves on the Mississippi River. The River's resources support 1.5 million jobs and generate nearly \$500 billion in annual revenue.

[The American Society of Civil Engineers](#) (ASCE) represents more than 150,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 177 countries. Founded in 1852, ASCE is the nation's oldest engineering society. ASCE stands at the forefront of a profession that plans, designs, constructs, and operates society's economic and social engine – the built environment – while protecting and restoring the natural environment.

[The U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing: They count on the U.S. Chamber to be their voice in Washington, across the country, and around the world. For more than 100 years, we have advocated for pro-business policies that help businesses create jobs and grow our economy.