



American Coastal Coalition

August 19, 2025

The Honorable John Kennedy
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Kennedy and Ranking Member Murray,

The American Coastal Coalition represents coastal communities across the Nation protected by federal beach nourishment projects and is writing to urge you to include at least \$200 million in federal funding for beach nourishment projects in the FY26 Energy and Water Development bill.

Federal funding for beach nourishment was eliminated in FY25, impacting the Coalition's member communities by leaving them vulnerable to hurricanes and coastal storms. As peak hurricane season approaches, we feel obliged to remind you of the catastrophic damages coastal communities face without robust beach and dune systems, as evidenced by recent hurricane damages.

The FY26 House version of the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill included \$25 million for shore protection, far beneath the level needed to construct the projects that were scheduled to be completed in FY25 as well as the FY26 need. Based on publicly available data, our analysis indicates at least \$200 million is needed exclusively for beach nourishment in FY26. A list of at-risk projects is below.

Beaches are basic infrastructure that protect billions of dollars in tourism revenue, real estate taxes, and critical infrastructure. For decades America's beaches have enjoyed bipartisan support from Congress, and we hope that trend will continue with your leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dan Ginolfi
Executive Director
American Coastal Coalition

At Risk Beach Nourishment Projects

Townsend Inlet to Cape May Inlet (NJ)
Great Egg Inlet to Peck Beach (NJ)
Great Egg to Townsend Inlet (NJ)
Barnegat to Little Egg (NJ)
Ocean City (MD)
Rehoboth & Dewey (DE)
Bethany and South Bethany Beach (DE)

CC:

NJ Senators Cory Booker & Andy Kim
MD Senators Chris Van Hollen & Angela Alsobrooks
DE Senators Chris Coons & Lisa Blunt Rochester