

JON RUNYAN
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

March 14, 2013

The Honorable George Nebel
Mayor
202 Downer Avenue
Mantoloking, NJ 08738-1608

Dear Mayor Nebel,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to secure all easements for the Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet Army Corps of Engineers shore protection project by May 1, 2013. As you know this project would provide beach replenishment from Point Pleasant Beach to Island Beach State Park. On November 19, 2012 I led a New Jersey delegation letter requesting the President to fund all previously authorized Army Corps flood control projects in New Jersey in his disaster relief request. I was pleased that Congress responded to this effort by appropriating \$3.99 billion in funding dedicated to the Army Corps of Engineers flood control projects in the Hurricane Sandy relief package.

This hard fought funding should be more than sufficient to cover the costs of completing New Jersey's shore protection projects. However, we still have one last hurdle to overcome before construction can begin on this essential project. We need township officials and residents to sign off on easements immediately. On May 1, 2013 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works will present Congress with a plan for how to spend the nearly \$4 billion in aid. While I have consistently advocated and will continue to advocate for funding for this project, the Assistant Secretary has the authority to exclude the project from the work plan if she feels that local municipalities will never obtain the necessary easements for the project. That is why it is so urgent shore communities' work together to do what needs to be done to obtain the necessary easements by May 1, 2013.

The Assistant Secretary can choose to include the project in her work plan even without having the necessary easements. But, as we have learned with certain sections of Long Beach Island, construction will not begin until all necessary right of way permits have been obtained; potentially delaying the project from ever beginning at all. We cannot afford to sit back and wait until another storm brings devastation to our shores again. The benefits of these projects in protecting the shoreline are clear. I toured Long Beach Island shortly after the storm hit, and it was clear that areas with completed beach replenishment projects were in much better shape than those areas that never secured easements.

I cannot stress to you enough the urgency of this situation. We need to work with our shared constituents to obtain all the necessary easements and get this project started as soon as possible. I know that some of you may have concerns about specific provisions or wording of

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the easements and that is understandable, but an important deadline is approaching and you must do everything in your power to work with our constituents to get this done. Lastly, I would like to offer my office as a resource if you still have reservations about the project. We would be happy to provide additional information and help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', written over the printed name 'Jon Runyan'.

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

JR/jb