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ASBPA STATEMENT ON BEACH PROJECT FUNDING IN THE STIMULUS BILL

[Statement of American Shore & Beach Preservation Association President Mayor Harry Simmons of Caswell Beach, NC)

ASBPA is pleased to see that the Obama Administration has included nearly \$2.5 million to complete important segments of studies that will lead to the renourishment of our nation's beaches. Those studies cover the East, West and Gulf coasts, indicating what we believe is a strong sign that this Administration plans to budget for placing sand on the beach when it releases the details of President Obama's FY '10 budget proposal next month.

While we are disappointed that the efforts of several Members of Congress did not result in getting badly-needed sand on the beach in Federal projects where sand was due to be placed as long ago as 2007, we are extremely hopeful this will be rectified when the FY '10 budget details are sent to Congress.

ASBPA is deeply indebted to the many Members of Congress who contacted the Obama Administration about the importance of healthy beaches to jobs, public safety, and the environment. House Coastal Caucus Chairman Frank Pallone and Senator Frank Lautenberg are just two of the many Members without whose efforts we would not have elevated this issue to the level it reached in the White House. We thank them, their colleagues, and the friends of the coast throughout the United States who made their feelings known to the Obama administration.

[The list of Corps Stimulus funding is at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/RECOVERY/Pages/Projects.aspx>

ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. The group strives to engage a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their benefits within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For more information on the ASBPA, go to www.asbpa.org.

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