

January 5, 2010

The Honorable President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recent coastal storms have wreaked havoc along the East and Gulf Coasts as well as Alaska. In their wake, FEMA has issued major disaster declarations for all or parts of Alabama, Alaska, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

While these declarations enable FEMA to provide significant Federal assistance to the affected areas, they provide no relief for damages sustained by Federal shore protection, flood control, and navigation projects. Disaster assistance for these projects can only be provided by the Army Corps of Engineers through its Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account.

Unfortunately, Congress appropriated no funds for this account in Fiscal 2010 and the Corps has almost no FCCE funds on hand. For coastal areas with Federal beach nourishment projects, this means that thousands of residents and millions of dollars of public and private infrastructure are exposed to even more serious damages than they have sustained during the recent storms. By law, Federal beach nourishment projects are designed to prevent storm damage and provide environmental protection. When storms occur that are serious enough to trigger major disaster declarations, the people, infrastructure, and resources of the affected areas have not only sustained significant damage, they also offer significantly less protection from additional storm events that may follow.

The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association urges you to propose an Emergency Disaster Relief package that will provide the Corps with the funds it needs to repair Federal coastal projects. In the Middle Atlantic states alone, we believe those damages exceed \$250 million. Given the importance of having repairs done before the next hurricane season begins, there is a compelling need for your administration to act now.

Sincerely,



Mayor Harry Simmons
President

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Honorable William Craig Fugate
Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Honorable David Obey
Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations

Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

Mr. Steven Stockton
Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers