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For Immediate Release

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Immediate Action Needed to Safeguard Public Health Along Nation's Coast

Long Branch, New Jersey – During its 80th Anniversary Conference, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) repeated its call for Congress to pass legislation that will help improve the quality of America's coastal waters.

"Along the nation's coasts, polluted water has forced beach closures and increased health risks to the public. As America's coastal experts gather for our annual conference, ASBPA once again urges our national leaders to act immediately to address this critical problem," stated Mayor Harry Simmons, President of ASBPA.

Simmons reiterated the organization's support of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act). The BEACH Act expired in 2005. The House of Representatives passed a reauthorization bill last year (HR 1721) but the legislation has been stalled in the U.S. Senate.

Over the past six years, coastal states have been awarded BEACH Act grants to implement water quality monitoring and public notification programs. These grants have helped safeguard the public's health across the country.

Reauthorization of the BEACH Act is a priority item on the ASBPA's 2006 Legislative Agenda. Recent letters sent by ASBPA in support of the BEACH Act are attached to this release.

Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association 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.

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