

January 29, 2010

**Funding for Water Resource Needs in the “Jobs Bill”**

**TO:** The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Dan Inouye, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Mayor Harry Simmons, ASBPA President

Given the high national unemployment rate, the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association strongly supports enactment of legislation that is focused solely on creating jobs that will create new employment opportunities or sustain existing jobs that are in danger of being lost. Together with our water resources allies, we are concerned about the apparent lack of attention being given to the tremendous job opportunities within the Nation’s vast water resource network.

America’s water resources system is critical to the nation’s prosperity. As a community of inter-related interests, we provide the water highways to move cargo, as well as the dams, levees, and beaches that reduce critical hazards and provide habitat protection. We create hydroelectric power to decrease both pollution and the Nation’s reliance on fossil fuels. We supply irrigation for farmland, maintain coastal and inland water parks for recreation and eco-tourism, and so much more. As Congress considers its priorities for a Jobs Bill, we urge you to consider appropriating at least \$6 billion to support water resources job creation and preservation. This is a substantial increase from the \$715,000 provided in the House version of the Jobs Bill. However it would create 120,000 direct jobs and either create or preserve over 300,000 permanent jobs.

The investment we request will –

- Repair and upgrade critical coastal protection projects that serve as defense to key population centers
- Provide habitat restoration for estuaries, wildlife sanctuaries, and wetlands
- Repair high risk dams and levees
- Increase the supply of clean drinking water and complete environmental infrastructure projects that will reduce water pollution
- Rehabilitate and upgrade hydropower plants
- Recapitalize the most at-risk projects on our inland waterways system
- Make America’s ports more competitive in the world market

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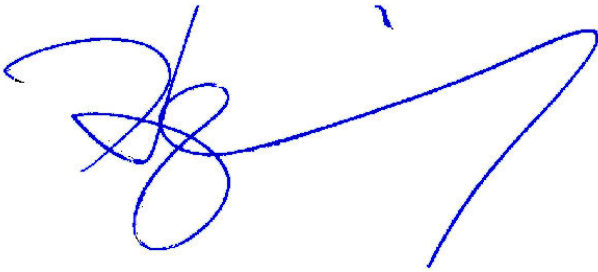
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- Dredge our intracoastal and inland waterways as well as our coastal navigation channels to enable the safe movement of commercial and recreational traffic

The funding we urge in the Jobs Bill is a low-cost high-return investment in job creation as well as America's prosperity and quality of life.

ASBPA and its allies stand ready to assist you with whatever support you need to provide robust funding for all types of water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mayor Harry Simmons  
President