

August 14, 2006

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Jeffords
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Jeffords:

I am contacting you in further reference to my June 9, 2006 letter. The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) supports the goals of H.R. 1721, the reauthorization of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (BEACH Act). This legislation was approved by the House of Representatives last year and has been referred to your Committee for consideration. The ASBPA respectfully requests that you schedule consideration of this important legislation as soon as possible.

Along the nation's coasts, polluted water has forced beach closures and increased health risks to the public. In order to adequately address these problems, efforts must be made to improve the ability of coastal states and communities to monitor water quality, as well as to increase the overall investment in our country's water infrastructure.

ASBPA has supported legislative and regulatory actions over the past few years which have strengthened federal and state standards for beach water quality. As part of the BEACH Act, coastal states and territories have been awarded grants to implement and develop water quality monitoring and public notification programs. These grants have allowed state and local officials to safeguard the public's health with improved monitoring and testing methods. It is critical that these BEACH Act grants be reauthorized by Congress.

Thank you for your leadership and steadfast support of America's coastal communities and public beaches.

Sincerely,



Mayor Harry Simmons
President, ASBPA