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American Shore and Beach Preservation Association

Dedicated to the preservation and sound development of shores and beaches

Online at www.asbpa.org

President's Office

Office of the Mayor, 1100 Caswell Beach Road
Caswell Beach, NC 28465
E-mail: President@ASBPA.org
Direct: (910) 200-7867 • Fax: (800) 967-0816

Washington, DC Office

c/o Marlowe & Company
1667 K Street, NW/Suite 480
Washington, DC 20006
E-Mail: Beaches@ASBPA.org

Executive Directors

5460 Beaujolais Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33919-2704
E-mail: ExDir@ASBPA.org
(239) 489-2616 • Fax: (239) 489-9917

June 20, 2005

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pallone:

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association supports the goals of H.R. 1721, the reauthorization of the BEACH Act. 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.

The economic impact of healthy beaches and clean coastal waters is felt across the entire country. Thankfully, the resources provided under the BEACH Act have helped make America's coastal waters safe for the millions of people who enjoy our beaches every year.

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

Sincerely,

Mayor Harry Simmons
President, ASBPA