

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

October 9-12, 2006

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings and warmest regards to the board and entire membership of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association as you gather for this meeting at which you celebrate the 80th anniversary of your organization.

New York State is blessed with wonderful outdoor places that we all treasure and love to visit, from the scenic Adirondacks to the majestic coastline of Long Island. Because we are home to some of the most spectacular beaches and shores in the world, our coastal regions draw thousands of people throughout the year. And beyond the tourism and recreational opportunities they offer, our waters support the statewide and local economies as resources for seafood production and by generating employment associated with this industry.

As someone who places a high priority on conservation issues, I am especially proud of those who share a conscientious concern for our environmental inheritance and who work to protect and preserve it in the future. This heritage is a cornerstone of life for our families and communities, and by following an agenda rooted in the belief that a balance must exist between these natural resources and modern society, we remain secure in the knowledge that we are responsibly caring for our State's environmental health and well-being.

For the past 80 years, the ASBPA has been dedicated to carrying out this vital mission and to preserving our historic shores – those unspoiled and those developed – along with the dunes, beaches and other natural features our citizens enjoy. Thanks to an extraordinary combination of commitment, knowledge and experience, your organization and its members have had a leading role in safeguarding the quality and character of life in our State and Nation by protecting America's beaches for people today and generations yet to come.

New Yorkers recognize those noteworthy organizations whose valued purpose is to nurture our State's rich environmental heritage and so we join in the spirit of this occasion to extend our congratulations and appreciation as you renew your pledge to the citizens and communities of our great State.

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and memorable gathering.

Very truly yours,

