

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

MONMOUTH

112 Village Center Drive
Freehold, NJ 07728-2510
(732) 780-3035

MERCER

4573 South Broad Street
Hamilton, NJ 08620-2215
(609) 585-7878

OCEAN

405 Route 539
Plumsted, NJ 08514-2303
(609) 585-7878
By Appointment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 5, 2022

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www.chrissmith.house.gov

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor:

I reach out to you today to reiterate my strongest support for the periodic renourishment of the **Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey Shore Protection Project**, and request that your office pursue all avenues to fully fund this project as expeditiously as possible.

By way of background, I represent a large swath of the New Jersey shore and have a long, established history of supporting important resiliency infrastructure. As you know, this specific project area represents ground zero for Superstorm Sandy, from which the Shore communities are still recovering. The costliest natural disaster to hit New Jersey, Sandy took 38 lives and caused over \$30 billion in damage to infrastructure in New Jersey, much of which is now protected by the Manasquan to Barnegat project. Thus, the significance of this important resiliency infrastructure cannot be overstated.

In the 2003 Chief of Engineer's Report to Congress, Lt. General Robert Flowers underscored the importance of this protection of valuable infrastructure, writing: *Periodic nourishment would be required at about 4-year intervals after completing the initial construction in order to maintain the integrity of the design beach template over the project life.*

I urge the Biden Administration to pursue all available pathways to fund this project. While I was disappointed that the President did not include the needed money in his Fiscal Year 2022 budget request, there is still time for the President to support the resources in the ongoing 2022 budget negotiations. Additionally, I would ask that you consider working with other departments to secure needed money through the Hurricane Ida Disaster Supplemental (Public Law 117-43), as well as the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (Public Law No 117-58), both of which I strongly supported. Together, these sources provide the long-awaited funds to complete this project and other urgently needed resiliency initiatives.

I stand ready to assist in any way appropriate and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress