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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2019

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Lieutenant Colonel Kristen N. Dahle
Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers—Philadelphia District
100 East Penn Square
The Wanamaker Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3323

Dear Lt. Col. Dahle,

I hope you are well since our last meeting. I am writing to you once again about the critical coastal storm damage reduction project in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., in my congressional district which the Army Corps of Engineers has been diligently constructing in recent months with the contractor Weeks Marine.

Not yet completed, the Point Pleasant Beach section of the Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet Coastal Storm Risk Management project was heavily impacted by severe weather—including high winds, driving rain and high spring tides—around the May 12-14 timeframe. Constituents have told me first-hand accounts of seeing their long-awaited, replenished beaches nearly washed away, with sea waters reaching the very foot of the dunes. I have been in contact with Point Pleasant Beach officials, as well as Keith Watson, the Corps project manager, to express my support for the borough's request that the Corps act as quickly as is possible on concerns about restoring the beaches damaged from this or prior weather events, as well as concerns about timeframes that limit the impact on the economically-vital tourist season, suitable dune heights and other matters.

As the Point Pleasant Beach section of the Corps' project is still currently underway and not completed, and while the construction equipment is still in the area, I am asking—on behalf of the Point Pleasant Beach Borough elected officials—that the Corps restore the beach to its planned width before the aforementioned powerful weather system, in order to achieve the project's primary goal of reducing impacts from coastal erosion and storms.

Any possible assistance in this matter is very much appreciated. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (202) 225-3765 or my District Director Jeff Sagnip at jeff.sagnip@mail.house.gov or (609) 585-9034.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

Co-Chairman of the following: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease • Bi-Partisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism • Lyme Disease Caucus
Coalition for Autism Research and Education • Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus • Bosnia Caucus • Poland Caucus • Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs
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