

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, & Related Agencies  
Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, & Related  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to respectfully request that you provide at least \$10 million for Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grants in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

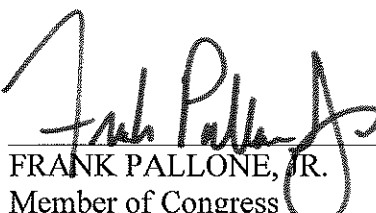
Our nation's beaches add tens of billions of dollars to our economy and provide recreational activity for millions of Americans each year. The Jersey Shore alone generates \$44 billion a year and supports over half a million direct and indirect jobs. The quality of our water is of the utmost importance in ensuring that record of economic and recreational success continues, and BEACH Act grants are the best tool at our disposal to ensure that our coasts are safe for swimming, surfing, fishing, and other activities.

BEACH Act grants help states and localities pay for testing to ensure our waters are safe for swimming. When tests show unsafe levels of bacteria, local and state agencies notify the public or close the beaches completely until bacteria levels fall to acceptable levels. Without this critical federal support, beachgoers would be in serious jeopardy, with many states and localities unable to fill the resulting funding gap to keep communities safe.

A modest continuation of funding would have an outsized impact on American beachgoers, the communities that welcome them, and the businesses that count on their support each year. To that end, we urge you to maintain this vital investment by dedicating at least \$10 million for BEACH Act grants in the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

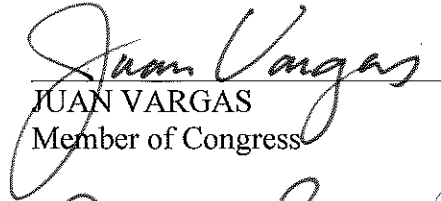
Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

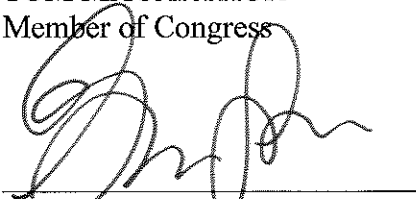
  
FRANK A. LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress



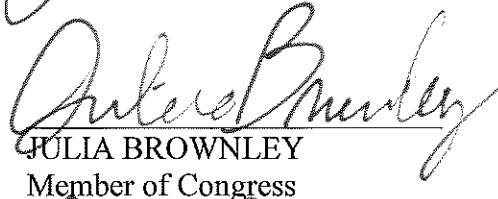
TOM MACARTHUR  
Member of Congress



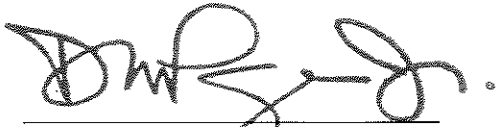
JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress



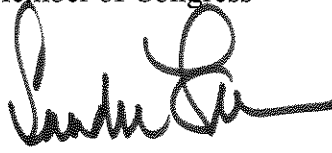
GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress



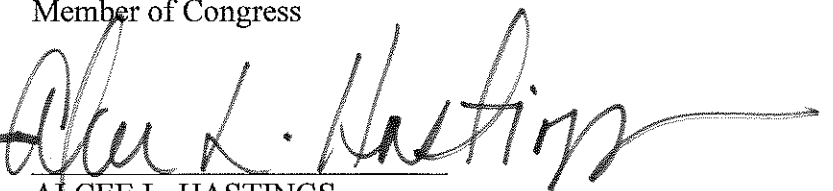
DONALD M. PAYNE  
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress



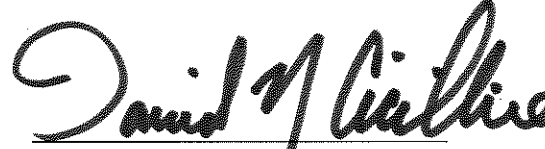
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL  
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE  
Member of Congress



SCOTT PETERS  
Member of Congress



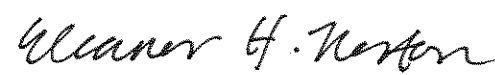
FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress



COLLEEN HANABUSA  
Member of Congress



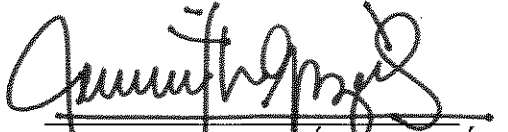
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress



STACEY E. PLASKETT  
Member of Congress

  
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress

  
RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress

  
JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ COLÓN  
Member of Congress

  
PETER DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

  
TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress

  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN  
Member of Congress

  
KATHY CASTOR  
Member of Congress