

Castle Makes the Case for Funding Beach Replenishment in Bethany & S. Bethany -- February 21, 2007

Sussex County, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle identified the beach replenishment projects in Bethany and S. Bethany as his number one priority beach project, saying he has been working overtime to try to secure additional funding for the project to build on the \$3 million in federal funding the Congressional Delegation already secured.

"I believe strongly in the federal role for beach replenishment because our beaches are a national treasure. Replenishment is vital in reducing storm damage to our coastline and to keeping our coastal residents safe from flooding and storms. All of this is critical to ensuring a lasting tourism economy. Because the beach is one of our greatest assets here in Delaware -- culturally, economically and environmentally -- I will continue to take every step necessary to protect it," Castle said.

Specifically Castle highlighted efforts he is making to secure funding for Fiscal Year 2007 and 2008 for Bethany and S. Bethany. The federal government did not provide any funding for specific beach replenishment projects in FY 2007, but Castle has:

- Signed a letter with other House members from coastal states to Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps Civil Works Division, John Woodley, requesting funding for authorized and continuing beach replenishment project nationwide.
- Sent letter to Major General Don Riley, Director of the Civil Works Program, specifically regarding continued funding for the Bethany/South Bethany Beach project.
- Met with Lieutenant Colonel Gwen Baker of the Philly Corps to stress importance of funding Bethany/South Bethany.

For the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008, Castle is working with the rest of the delegation to ensure this project is the number one beach replenishment project in their request for funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

"The recent beach replenishment efforts at other beaches along Delaware's coast have provided adequate protection from erosion, and this is even more reason to quickly complete the Bethany project swiftly," Castle said.

Over the past five years, the Congressional Delegation has secured almost \$23 million in federal funding for beach replenishment projects (\$22,767,000).

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