

## Castle Supports Clean Beaches Week June 29 - July 5

Washington

D.C. -- With July 4th just

days away, many Delawareans will be heading to the beaches of Sussex County. The House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 186, acknowledging National Clean Beaches Week, which promotes cleaner air and water in Delaware and across the country. Additionally, this legislation recognizes the value of beaches to the American way of life and the important contributions of beaches to the economy, recreation, and natural environment of the United States. The purpose of National Clean Beaches Week is to encourage beachgoers to not only enjoy the beaches next week but also to consider the mounds of trash collecting on them.

"By raising awareness of the threats facing our beaches, we can increase public responsibility and stewardship of our beaches around the country. Delaware has some phenomenal beaches that have long been a part of the state's tradition and history. We need to take every effort to preserve these spaces for Delawareans and future generations so others can use them for them for travel and recreation. I urge those of you who will be at the beaches this upcoming week to engage in activities that will encourage volunteerism along our coastlines," Castle said.

With some 180 million people visiting the U.S. coast each year and more than half of the total U.S. population now living in a coastal county (more than at any time in our nation's history), beach litter is a growing problem. Litter can harm marine life, coral reefs, recreational and commercial vessels, as well as people. Clean Beaches Council estimates that in 2006 alone, more than 390 pounds of litter was collected per mile of coastline during a yearly coastal clean-up sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy.

Launched in the United Nation's "International Year of the Ocean" (the spring of 1998), Clean Beaches Council is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization devoted to sustaining America's beaches by increasing public awareness and volunteer participation. Since its inception, CBC has developed innovative approaches to coastal management and protection of human health and the environment. CBC's flagship program is the Blue Wave Campaign - America's first environmental certification program for beaches. For more information, visit [www.cleanbeaches.org](http://www.cleanbeaches.org)

###