

CASTLE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AMERICA'S COASTLINE -- FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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Washington, DC -- Today, Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE) served as the keynote speaker at the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's (ASBPA) 2008 Coastal Summit and highlighted the importance of protecting America's environment and coastal resources through a strong federal-state partnership. Rep. Castle was honored by the ASBPA in March 2007 with the "Coastal Advocate Award" and was invited to speak at the Summit for his outstanding record on coastal preservation and environmental protection. Rep. Castle addressed the importance of authorizing water resources projects every two years in the Water Resources Development Act, which was done for the first time since 2000 last year; a strong federal-state funding partnership; and better understanding the impacts of climate change on our coasts.

"Replenishment plays a significant role in the management and restoration of our beaches. Through state and federal efforts we can ensure Delaware's coastline will be protected," said Rep. Castle. "Our beaches are a great place for recreation and serve as a habitat for important species, but they also provide a critical barrier against storm damage and flooding, and protect our coastal communities.

"The statistics clearly point to the importance of a strong commitment to ongoing and proactive coastal restoration efforts. There is close to 21,000 miles of eroding shoreline in the United States; 53% of all Americans are living in coastal counties; and an average of 3,600 people per day are moving to coastal areas, and I know in Delaware this figure is still on the rise.

"The authorizations provided in the Water Resources Development Act and the funding needed to carry out the studies and renourishment efforts is not insignificant, so the need for collaboration cannot be overstated — states and local communities, the Army Corps, and Congress each play a very important role.

"Climate change is another important factor when considering the future of our coastlines. From a coastal perspective, the level of risk from coastal storms and sea level rise is something we must prepare for. I support a mandatory 'cap-and-trade program,' based on a sound energy policy foundation to stop the damaging effects of global warming pollution."

To learn more about the ASBPA, please visit www.asbpa.org.

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