

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Carper and Graves and Ranking Members Capito and Larsen:

We write to urge you to include the below language within the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA 24) to resolve issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that are endangering coastal storm risk management projects across Florida, including in Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Broward counties.

At issue is USACE's inconsistent interpretation and implementation of Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213), which has delayed coastal storm risk management projects, putting the safety and economic security of communities at risk. These projects play a crucial role in protecting against extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods, that cause severe beach erosion. As the number of extreme weather events increases, these projects are also an important component in efforts to combat the effects of climate change.

We appreciate the recent project flexibility announced by USACE, but Congressional action is necessary to fully resolve issues local project sponsors are experiencing and to ensure these projects can move forward. We again urge you to include the enclosed language in WRDA 24.

Sincerely,



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Maxwell Frost

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

SEC. XX. HURRICANE AND COASTAL STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any requirement of the Secretary for a project described in subsection (b) to comply with the memorandum of the Corps of Engineers entitled “Standard Estates – Perpetual Beach Nourishment and Perpetual Restrictive Dune Easement” and dated August 4, 1995, the Secretary shall carry out each project described in that subsection, for the remaining term of the construction agreement for the project, in a manner consistent with the previously completed initial construction and periodic nourishments of the project, including by carrying out, at full Federal expense when authorized by law, emergency response work to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and to support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities under section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)).

(b) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project referred to in subsection (a) is any of the following:

- (1) Brevard County, Canaveral Harbor, Florida – Mid Reach.
- (2) Brevard County, Canaveral Harbor, Florida – North Reach.
- (3) Brevard County, Canaveral Harbor, Florida – South Reach.
- (4) Broward County, Florida – Segment II.
- (5) Broward County, Florida – Segment III.
- (6) Dade County, Florida – Main Segment.
- (7) Dade County, Florida – Sunny Isles Segment.
- (8) Duval County, Florida.
- (9) Fort Pierce Beach, Florida.
- (10) Lee County, Florida – Captiva.
- (11) Lee County, Florida – Gasparilla.
- (12) Manatee County, Florida.
- (13) Martin County, Florida.
- (14) Nassau County, Florida.
- (15) Palm Beach County, Florida – Jupiter/Carlin Segment.
- (16) Palm Beach County, Florida – Delray Segment.
- (17) Palm Beach County, Florida – Mid Town.
- (18) Palm Beach County, Florida – North Boca.
- (19) Palm Beach County, Florida – Ocean Ridge.
- (20) Pinellas County, Florida – Long Key.
- (21) Pinellas County, Florida – Sand Key Segment.
- (22) Pinellas County, Florida – Treasure Island.
- (23) Sarasota, Lido Key, Florida.
- (24) Sarasota County, Florida – Venice Beach.
- (25) St. Johns County, Florida – St. Augustine Beach.
- (26) St. Johns County, Florida – Vilano Segment.
- (27) St. Lucie County, Florida – Hutchinson Island.