

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3803

February 17, 2011

LTC Stephen H. Bales
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

Dear LTC Bales,

I am writing to encourage the Army Corp of Engineers to make funding for sand replenishment at Presque Isle State Park a high-priority project within the remaining FY2011 budget.

Presque Isle is a centerpiece of both the economy and the community in northwestern Pennsylvania. As you know, every year the beaches at Presque Isle need replenishment due to erosion that takes place throughout the winter. The park itself receives on average 4 million visitors a year, many of them utilize the beaches during the summer. It is absolutely critical for the park and our region that the sand gets replenished on an annual basis.

There is large, bi-partisan, federal, state and local agreement that the continued funding of the sand replenishment program at Presque Isle remain a top priority. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is under an agreement to provide a 1:1 match for what the federal government provides. The project has also been included in the FY2012 budget proposal.

As you are aware, many federal agencies are facing financial belt tightening and I am sympathetic to these challenges. However, it would be incredibly detrimental to our community if the Presque Isle sand replenishment did not receive continued funding through the Army Corp of Engineers budget. I ask for your continued support of the Presque Isle Sand Replenishment Project and your consideration making this a top priority project during your FY 2011 funding decisions.

If there is anything I can do to provide you more information or to help you with this effort, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Brad Moore, at (814) 454-8190 or Brad.Moore@mail.house.gov. Funding for sand replenishment at Presque Isle is one of my top local priorities and my office will do what it can for you to ensure that this happens.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress