

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2017

Mr. Douglas Lamont
Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

Dear Mr. Lamont:

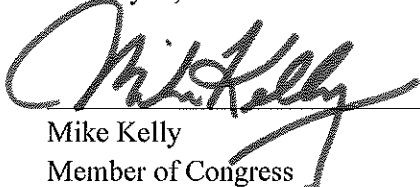
We are writing to request that sand replenishment for Presque Isle State Park is made a high-priority project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) fiscal year (FY) 2017 Work Plan and FY2018 budget. We also ask that all possible expediency be taken to expedite the review and approval of the proposed local cooperation agreement amendment to allow contributed funds for sand nourishment before this summer's tourist season.


In 2016, the USACE did not include funding for sand replenishment at Presque Isle in its budget. Consequently, the park at Presque Isle was unable to replenish its beaches in time for the busy summer tourist season. A mild winter in the region and the resulting lack of protective ice cover on the lake has caused greater erosion than usual and increased the likelihood of beach closure, public safety concerns, and potential threats to the environment and property on Presque Isle.

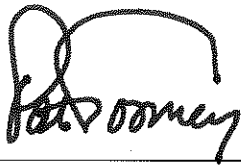
Due to the absence of federal funds in FY2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR) offered to contribute up to \$1.5 million, which is only half of the amount estimated to be needed at the time, to the USACE, Buffalo District for sand replenishment. It is our hope that cooperation with local agents who contribute non-federal funds to perform beach nourishment at Presque Isle will be agreed to expeditiously.

Presque Isle is an essential economic and natural resource for Northwestern Pennsylvania, creating more than 1,000 jobs and drawing roughly four million visitors, who bring more than \$60 million into the local economy, according to a study by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Needless to say, it is critical for the region that the beach remains a popular attraction and that the shoreline's integrity is fully maintained. We will continue to work with state and local officials to ensure the beaches at Presque Isle remain beautiful and pristine. In accordance with federal, state, and local agreement, we respectfully request that you prioritize the Presque Isle Beach Nourishment Project as you finalize your FY2017 Work Plan and FY2018 budget.

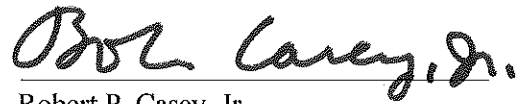
Thank you,


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Toomey". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping underline.

Pat Toomey
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Casey, Jr.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator