



CONGRESSMAN
**FRANK
PALLONE**



MONMOUTH COUNTY REPORT

Protecting the New Jersey Shore

Pallone Continues to Fight for New Jersey's Oceans, Beaches and Coastal Environment

Victory for New Jersey Beaches

Pallone and other colleagues from coastal districts led the fight to protect our shorelines from proposals to allow offshore drilling for oil and gas. A draft version of the Budget Reconciliation Act, which passed the House last month, would have allowed individual states to get out of a 20-year federal moratorium on offshore drilling — putting New Jersey's coasts at the mercy of our neighboring states.

Pallone offered an amendment in the House Resources Committee to strip the offshore drilling language out of the bill. While his amendment did not pass, he and others did lead a successful effort to keep these harmful provisions out of the final version.

Pallone will continue to fight to clean up New Jersey's beaches and secure greater coastline protections. Rather than drilling off our shores, he is working to solve our energy problems by promoting conservation and alternative sources.

EPA Prohibited From Weakening Sewage Blending Rules

This past year, the House passed an amendment offered by Pallone to prevent water treatment plants from dumping partially treated sewage into our waterways any time it rains.

The amendment prevented the Bush administration from proceeding with a policy change, proposed in November 2003, which would have weakened the Clean Water Act. By allowing more partially treated sewage into our rivers, lakes, and oceans, the policy change would have seriously threatened public health.

Last year, New Jersey had a total of 168 beach closure days, most caused by the discovery of contaminants found in improperly treated sewage. Sewage contamination was also the cause of shellfish bed closures late last year in Ocean County.

Funds for Beach Replenishment and Flood Control Projects

Pallone helped secure funds for Monmouth County through this year's federal Energy and Water Appropria-

tions bill. The funds will allow the Army Corps to move ahead with critical shore protection projects along the Atlantic coastline and the Bayshore, both of which were battered by the nor'easter in October.

■ **Atlantic Coast -- \$3 million** to repair beaches in Monmouth County where replenishment has already occurred.

■ **Port Monmouth -- \$1.5 million** for beach replenishment, the first phase of the Army Corps' flood control project.

■ **Keansburg -- \$188,000** to complete the design of the beach replenishment project so construction can begin in 2007.

■ **Highlands, Keyport, and Leonardo -- \$100,000** each to continue studying the feasibility of flood control projects.

■ **Union Beach -- \$60,000** to continue the design of the beach replenishment project.



Pallone stands with Anthony Ciorra, left, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after examining beaches in Monmouth County to assess the damage from a nor'easter last October.

Recreational Fishing Concerns

In its draft reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, the Bush administration proposed creating a mandatory marine recreational fishing license that could cost anglers up to \$35 per year.

I remain a strong opponent of requiring recreational fishermen to pay for the right to fish. After the administration released its proposal, I wrote to William Hogarth, head of the National Marine Fisheries Service, expressing my vehement opposition. There is a critical need to improve data collection systems for both stock assessment and recreational catches, but requiring recreational fisherman to purchase a marine license is unreasonable. There are other ways to improve recreational data collection without imposing tremendous burdens on the fishing community.

As Ranking Democrat of the Fisheries and Oceans Subcommittee, I will continue to express this opposition during Congressional consideration of the Magnuson bill.

Pallone Working to Keep New Jersey Families Safe

The slow response by government agencies to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina exposed troubling weaknesses in our nation's emergency response and preparedness system. The attacks this summer on London's transit system also demonstrated the need to remain vigilant to prevent and protect our citizens from attack.

Frank Pallone is working to ensure that New Jersey is prepared to handle any threat or disaster and has taken concrete steps to keep our families safe.

Chemical Security

New Jersey residents are acutely aware of the threat posed by a possible terrorist attack on a chemical plant. Groups from all sides of the issue — environmentalists, unions and industry — agree that prompt action needs to be taken.

Pallone has introduced the Chemical Security Act, legislation requiring chemical facilities to work with law enforcement to determine their security vulnerabilities, then develop and implement a certified plan minimizing their risk of attack.

Rail Security

Trains carrying hazardous chemicals run regular routes through many New Jersey towns. Currently, no system is in place to alert local management officials

and first responders of when these shipments are coming through and what exactly is being stored on board.

Pallone is a leading cosponsor of legislation that would require more coordination between the chemical industry and local emergency coordinators so they can be better prepared to respond to either an attack or an accident.

Ferry Security

Over ten million commuters use the NY/NJ ferry systems each year, but little has been done to improve security measures at many of our nation's ferry terminals.

Pallone has requested that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security increase funding for ferry security and develop a universal plan to prevent and deter attacks on ferry systems. He called for more bomb-sniffing dogs at ferry terminals, as well as a greater law enforcement presence and expanded bomb detection abilities.

Be Prepared

It is critical that you take steps to prepare your family in the event of an emergency situation. Every family should have an emergency evacuation plan and an emergency supply kit. For more

information on how to prepare your family or business, visit www.ready.gov.



Rep. Pallone's District Offices — Reaching Out to You

If you have a problem of a federal nature or want to obtain information on legislative issues, contact these offices, open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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