

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 08, 2016

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We are requesting that Presque Isle State Park remain a high-priority project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) FY2016 budget.

The Presque Isle State Park beaches are among the most important natural resources in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We commend the USACE's judgment in past years to ensure the park's beaches have been replenished in time for the summer tourism season. Presque Isle State Park recreational beaches, dubbed the 'Crown Jewel' of Pennsylvania State Parks, span seven miles along the Lake Erie shoreline and attract over 4 million visitors annually. Being the Commonwealth's sole 'seashore', the beaches are an economic driver for the region and play a vital role in the Northwest Pennsylvania's tourism sector.

While the 'Beach Nourishment Project' is critical to maintaining the park's shoreline for economic purposes, the sand replenishment also serves vital environmental objectives. The project protects Presque Isle State Park from the lake's constant erosion and helps sustain the many unique habitats found throughout the park.

We will continue to work with state and local officials to maintain the integrity of the beaches at Presque Isle. In accordance with the federal, state and local agreement, we respectfully request you again prioritize the beach replenishment at Presque Isle State Park as you finalize your FY2016 Civil Works Budget.

We appreciate the USACE's commitment to the mitigating the annual erosion at Presque Isle. The millions of tourists who visit the beaches each year and the local business they support count on your efforts.

Sincerely,



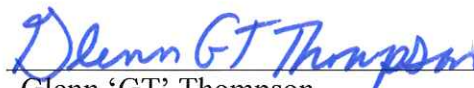
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

CC: LTG Thomas P. Bostick, USACE
Hon. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)