

ANDY HARRIS, M.D.

FIRST DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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March 27, 2017

Ms. Jennifer Greer  
Congressional Affairs Officer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CECS-C)  
Government Accountability Office Building  
441 G Street, NW, Attn: CECS-C  
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Ms. Greer:

I write to thank you for your February 24, 2017 response to my February 6, 2017 letter regarding funding for the Atlantic Coast of Maryland Storm Protection Project - Ocean City Beach Replenishment. I am pleased to learn that funding has been approved for the Baltimore District to initiate the project and appreciate your efforts to that end.

However, I was dismayed to learn that not all the funding requested by the District for the project has been approved. Specifically, the \$2.45 million Federal share for funding of the four year advance nourishment remains uncommitted. As you know, the fixed cost to mobilize the dredge and other equipment necessary for a large beach replenishment project such as Ocean City's is significant, often exceeding a million dollars before any sand is placed on the beach. The advance nourishment procedure allows a single mobilization cost to be spread over multiple years. If the advance nourishment component of the project is not constructed now, it simply increases the frequency of required future replenishments and consequently increases the overall cost of the project. This seems, to me, to be an inefficient use of tax dollars.

The State of Maryland has appropriated the necessary local matching funds to completely restore the project to the full template including the four years of advance nourishment as required by the Local Cooperation Agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the State. I would urge the Corps of Engineers to do the same, without delay, and would appreciate your full consideration, consistent with existing guidelines and policies, to this request. Please direct your response to my Salisbury office. Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Harris, M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

APH:hld