

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 31, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Young,

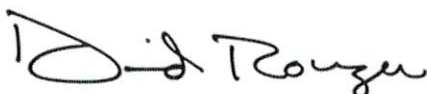
We write to highlight the recent decision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District (USACE Wilmington) to use the Masonboro Inlet as the borrow site to renourish Wrightsville Beach and to urge expedient review and approval of emergency funding of \$10 million from the Fiscal Year 2023 Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) account. For the district to move forward and execute the emergency renourishment project, this funding is necessary to cover the full cost of the project at \$21 million. It is our understanding that if the funds are not received within two weeks, cost increases will further delay the project. The expedient approval of these funds will ensure dredging and renourishment can occur as soon as possible.

Originally, the renourishment of Wrightsville Beach was planned for the summer of 2022. However, project managers were required to identify a new borrow site that resulted in the delayed implementation of the renourishment due to the researching of this new site. Since then, the beach and its community have grown increasingly vulnerable to hurricane damage. In fact, experts say one more major hurricane would cause irreparable damage to the Town of Wrightsville Beach. This is why we were pleased when the USACE Wilmington officially stopped the Environmental Review process of a much more expensive offshore borrow site and chose to move forward with the Beach's natural deposit site, Masonboro Inlet, under an emergency exception for the purposes of renourishment of the beach following damage done by Hurricane Ian. This decision was made by the Army Corps' Wilmington District with concurrent approval by South Atlantic Division office in Atlanta. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C. deferred to the Wilmington District on the decision.

The project has been allocated \$11.6 million from Fiscal Year 2022 Disaster Relief Supplemental "Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies" (FCCE) Appropriations. This funding restores project damages from declared disasters at 100% federal cost. However, due to increased costs and material lost, an additional \$10 million in FCCE funding from the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations is needed to award the construction contract. For the Wilmington District to receive this money, the Office of Management and Budget will need to approve the award of \$10 million as soon as possible so that advertisement of the contract for award will not be delayed beyond their current schedule. Additional delays will result in a "day-for-day" slip in soliciting the contract for bid and jeopardize the renourishment project.

It is imperative these funds are swiftly approved and made available to the Wilmington District to begin the overdue process of restoring Wrightsville Beach to protect the town and its residents. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter given its time-sensitive nature.

Sincerely,



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator