

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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April 21, 2021

The Honorable David C. Rouzer  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

On behalf of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and our almost 900 members, thank you for all your efforts to support the Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (CSDR) projects in Carolina Beach, Wrightsville Beach and Kure Beach. Your continued support and advocacy over the last several years has ensured businesses and homes throughout New Hanover County are protected during storms.

I write today in support of New Hanover County's beach nourishment projects. These projects provide enormous benefits and protection to businesses and homes along the coast and inland. The economic impact our beaches bring our region is significant.

Your efforts have been critical in securing federal funding for these projects, which as you know are far too costly for our local communities to pay for on their own. Like you, we were encouraged when the county's CSDR projects were authorized as part of the Water Resources Development Act in 2020.

As we learned in January, the county's projects were not included in the final U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work plan. While the Chamber, the City of Wilmington, New Hanover County, the county's beach communities and your office, have advocated for federal funding, we do not have the federal commitment yet.

We support your efforts to either find reprogrammed federal funding or to make the funding for the county's beach projects an item you specifically request in a future federal budget.

As always, the Chamber is willing to help you advocate for healthy beaches that protect our coastal infrastructure and result in greater protection for businesses and residents.

Respectfully,

Natalie English

President and CEO