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CONTACT

Will.Shedden@myfloridahouse.gov

Office of Representative Cross

727-552-2747

**Pinellas Representatives File Bipartisan Beach
Renourishment Memorial**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Earlier, **Representative Lindsay Cross (D-St. Petersburg)** filed [House Memorial 1411](#), Shore Protection, with **Representative Kim Berfield (R-Clearwater)** and **Representative Linda Chaney (R-St. Pete Beach)**.

With 825 miles of sandy beaches, Florida’s beaches and dunes are economic engines, protect our communities from severe storms, and provide essential habitat for endangered species like sea turtles and shorebirds. Beach renourishment projects are often funded through a combination of local, state and federal funding. Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has implemented a policy requiring perpetual easements from 100% of property owners within a beach renourishment area. This is not a law, but rather a policy directive by the Corps’ Jacksonville District, that has led to significant delays and the potential for local communities to lose federal funding if they cannot secure 100% of the easements. In the past, local partners could acquire less-than-perpetual easements and pay for certain landward portions of sand placement, ensuring that the entire project could be completed - this is no longer allowed by the Corps. **HM 1411** requests Congress direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to change this policy so that critical shore protection projects can proceed without delay. While the Corps’ need for easements is understandable, those easements should be reasonable and balance the benefits to the property owner and public access and safety.

“Florida’s identity is washing away. As an environmental scientist, I know the value our beaches and dunes play in protecting our communities and providing habitat for valued wildlife species. As storms and hurricanes lash our coastlines, we risk losing more of our shoreline each year. Our local partners are working hard to maintain these beaches that drive our local economies and we need our federal partners to support these efforts. With a change in federal policy, we’ll have the ability to rebuild our battered shorelines, safeguard our infrastructure, improve our resiliency, and enjoy a day at the beach,” said **Representative Lindsay Cross**.

“Our beaches are a gift from mother nature and need to be treated as the treasure they are. They provide recreation, relaxation, rejuvenation and economic value to our lives and our community. The erosion our beaches have sustained for the past several years requires immediate action. For the Army Corp of Engineers to not address the erosion is as irresponsible as not wearing a helmet and pads while playing in a championship

college football game.” added **Representative Kim Berfield**.

“Our shorelines are being devastated by storms eroding the critical first line of defense for our homes, businesses and even inland communities. Florida’s economy relies heavily on tourists visiting our beaches and surrounding businesses. Nationwide states are working to make their communities more resilient. This policy reversal by the Army Corps creates vulnerable, less resilient communities, and invites avoidable insurance claims. It makes no sense on a state or national level.” said **Representative Linda Chaney**

“From Pass-a-Grille to Clearwater Beach, renourishment of sand is a critical component to keeping our beach residents secure and beach economy strong. With counties all over Florida affected by the decision from the Army Corps of Engineers, I’m hopeful that the Legislature will move forward with the memorial requesting Congress take action to protect some of the nation’s most beautiful coastline,” said **Pinellas County Commission Chair Kathleen Peters**.

“The House Memorial urging Congress to enact legislation to fix the Army Corps’ detrimental easement policies in Florida comes at a critical time. Further delay endangers lives, infrastructure, and essential habitat, and threatens to unravel more than half a century of successful investments and partnerships that preserve Florida’s world-famous beaches” said **Pepper Uchino, President of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association**.

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