

Congressman Van Drew

Energy and Water Appropriations Testimony

- Good Morning, Chairman Fleischman and Ranking Member Kaptur. It is a pleasure to once again testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.
- My District of Southern New Jersey is one of the most coastal in the entire country. I work to take care of all my coastal communities, from the Bayshore to the Barrier Islands of the Jersey Shore. That is why I always request that the Committee provide strong levels of funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- We expect the Army Corps to release its Work Plan and Budget shortly. I ask that the Committee fully fund all the New Jersey Operations and Maintenance projects included in the President's budget to keep our waterways clear.

- I also ask that the Committee provide strong funding levels for beach replenishment. I have two Community Project Funding items I am submitting for beach replenishment.
- The first of these is Brigantine Inlet to Great Egg Harbor Inlet, NJ for \$35,000,000 in Construction.
- This project has two components. The first component will construct a protective beach on Absecon Island, including Atlantic City, Ventnor, Longport, and Margate. This is a regular nourishment, and historic trends and input from the Army Corps suggest it will cost \$30 million for FY27. NJDEP is the non-federal sponsor.
- The second component is \$5 million to continue advancing the design of new jetties in Atlantic City to better protect the beach and mitigate erosion. This design process received \$1.5 million in the FY25 work plan, and the requested funding will allow this process to move forward to final design.

- The second beach project is Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet, NJ for \$35,500,000 in Construction. This project in Long Beach Island is one of the largest in the state of New Jersey. It protects over \$30 billion in property. My hope is that it will be included in the FY26 work plan, but I have submitted it as an FY27 earmark as an insurance policy. NJDEP is a non-federal sponsor.
- My final Community Project Funding request is Investigation funding for the Brigantine Seawall. Funds will advance a Section 103 study to extend the Seawall in Northern Brigantine Island. The current seawall is no longer sufficient to protect the property and ecosystems on the north end of this beautiful community. The Army Corps issued a Federal Interest Determination on this project in 2017, and NJDEP has agreed to sponsor this non-federal study.

#5299 Brigantine Inlet to Great Egg Harbor Inlet, NJ

#5323 Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet, NJ

#5282 Brigantine Seawall