



Jersey Shore Partnership Support for H.R. 3115
Living Shorelines Act of 2019

The Jersey Shore Partnership, founded in 1991, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that advocates for stable funding on the state and federal levels for coastal protection and beach replenishment and on related issues and initiatives that are important to the State's coastal communities, the tourism economy and our quality of life.

The Jersey Shore Partnership (Partnership) applauds consideration of H.R. 3115-Living Shorelines Act of 2019 in the Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife introduced by Congressman Frank Pallone.

As an organization focused on the stability and resiliency of New Jersey's 130 mile coast, the Partnership supports H.R. 3115 as an important step in advancing shoreline stabilization projects that employ natural materials to buffer shoreline erosion from coastal storms, support natural habitats, and essential ecosystem functions.

This innovative, comprehensive legislation advances opportunities to protect our coastal infrastructure by incentivizing a natural complement to 'hard' shoreline stabilization methods and recognizes the value of living shore lines' numerous benefits.

H.R. 3115 not only recognizes the benefits of living shorelines to coastal communities, it provides financial incentives for environmentalists, shoreline communities, and naturalists to explore the many opportunities to invest in living shore projects in ocean and bay areas. Further, H.R. 3115 establishes a cooperative relationship with relevant offices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in developing the project criteria, including its current and future benefits.

The Living Shorelines Grant Program is unique in its recognition a) that climate-resilient living shore-line projects offer a beneficial alternative to hard structures in protecting coastal communities; b) that the grant program offers the incentive to advance local and state efforts in developing living shore line projects. We look forward to the bill's passage out of the Natural Resources Committee for a vote on the House floor.

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