



**An Association for All Bethany Beach, DE Property Owners**

May 26, 2021

The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.  
Tatnall Building  
150 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd South  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carney:

The purpose of this letter is to request the status of Delaware's intention regarding the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study being conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. This study was offered to 10 Coastal States and the District of Columbia after the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, so that coastal communities could develop, with the Corps' assistance, programs and projects that would help build resilience in advance of future storms.

As a membership organization of close to 1,300 Bethany Beach property owners, we have been following the progress of the study effort over the past 5 years in the hopes that all of the North Atlantic coastal areas will take advantage of the knowledge and resources connected with the federal plans.

To our knowledge, of the States invited, Delaware is the only one that has not yet joined the study. This is very disappointing. BBLA is deeply concerned that Bethany Beach and the other Delaware beaches could be negatively impacted if Delaware misses the opportunity to work with the Corps to conduct a careful examination of our Back Bay environmental conditions.

It is only a matter of time before another major storm hits the Atlantic Coast. This study would give the communities an implementation plan for before and after storms. It would also provide Delaware's coastal communities access to federal resources on a timely basis to assist with post-storm damages. The benefits to Delaware more than outweigh the shared costs to be borne by study participants.

We strongly encourage the State of Delaware to join the other north Atlantic coastal states in this important federal study. As you know, southeast Sussex County has been experiencing significant growth due to the popularity of close proximity to the beach towns. BBLA views the importance of protecting this significant Delaware coastal industry resource as a necessity for Delaware's ecological health as well as for its economic health.

Thank you for considering BBLA's request to take State action before the opportunity expires. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Sierra*

President of BBLA Board of Directors

cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
The Honorable Christopher A. Coons  
The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester  
The Honorable Bryan Townsend  
The Honorable Gerald W. Hocker  
The Honorable Peter C. Schwartzkopf  
The Honorable Ronald E. Gray  
Shawn M. Garvin, DNREC Secretary  
Rosemary Hardiman, Mayor of Bethany Beach