

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2013

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Moran:

Our nation's beaches add tens of billions of dollars to our economy and provide recreational activity for millions of Americans. The water quality of our beaches is of paramount importance to the individuals who bathe in their waters or depend on our coasts for their economic livelihood. Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act grants are a critical tool for ensuring that the waters off of our coasts are safe for swimming, surfing and other recreation.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) BEACH Act grants help states and localities pay for water quality testing to ensure coastal waterways are safe for swimming. When bacteria levels are too high, local and state environmental protection agencies notify the public or close beaches altogether to protect public safety. The elimination of such a program could severely impact the health and safety of beachgoers and swimmers across the U.S. And unfortunately, the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget request eliminates the program.

We respectfully urge you to restore funding for this vital program to the Fiscal Year 2012 enacted level of \$9.9 million to ensure that our beaches are clean and safe for all visitors while serving as an economic engine for the many communities on our coast. We look forward to working with you in support of maintaining funding for BEACH Act grants and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress


LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress


SAM FARR
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN
Member of Congress



JON RUNYAN
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress



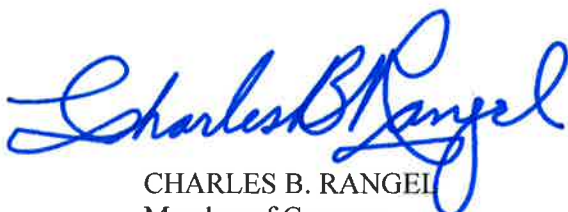
SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress




STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress



ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress