

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 9, 2011

Major General William T. Grisoli
Deputy Commanding General,
Civil and Emergency Operations
Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Major General Grisoli:

Thank you for speaking with me recently regarding critical infrastructure investments at Oregon Inlet in the North Carolina Outer Banks. With the help of the Wilmington District, the Army Corps of Engineers has expanded immediate efforts to reopen this important thoroughfare. To build on this initial success, I write today to urge you to provide sufficient fiscal year 2011 (FY11) resources for this and other coastal projects that are vital to the North Carolina economy.

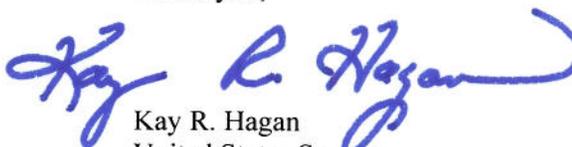
As you know, President Obama signed into law the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 on April 15. I understand that the Corps is working now to outline a work-plan to determine how best to utilize available FY11 resources, and will provide a final work-plan to Congress no later than May 15.

During this process, I urge you to prioritize crucial North Carolina coastal infrastructure projects, consistent with your statutory and regulatory responsibilities. North Carolina's coastal communities are an essential element of our state's economy, sustaining vibrant fishing and shipping industries that support thousands of jobs. Likewise, North Carolina's beaches and coastal waterways bring visitors from throughout the world to our coast, supporting thousands of tourism jobs throughout the year.

As we recently discussed, Army Corps of Engineers navigation dredging at Oregon Inlet is an excellent example of federal investments in our coastal infrastructure supporting jobs for North Carolinians. Likewise, Corps dredging at North Carolina's major ports – in Wilmington and Morehead City – helps to ensure that these economic engines can continue to support an estimated 65,000 jobs across the state. Finally, investments in storm damage projects along our coast are essential to repair popular beaches degraded by severe weather and erosion.

A disruption in funding for these projects may leave many North Carolina communities struggling to maintain our fragile economic recovery. For that reason, I urge you to provide sufficient resources to support Army Corps of Engineers efforts along the North Carolina coast for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly or have your staff contact Perrin Cooke on my staff at 202-224-9025.

Thank you,



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator