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Dear General Assembly members and bay and coastal mayors:

Thank you for your February 29 and March 7, 2024 letters referencing the Bay Beach Initiative and pending Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Army Corps of Engineers. I appreciate the legislators' bipartisan recognition of this coastal resilience issue along the bay, which is one of the many climate-change related challenges already affecting our constituents statewide.

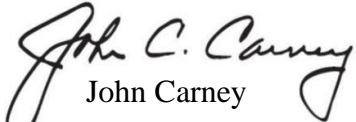
We agree the state must take advantage of the 90/10 cost-share arrangement that Sen. Carper has arranged while it is available. Here is the status of the agreement:

- DNREC and the Army Corps regional office reached a global agreement in principle which was unfortunately then not approved by Corps headquarters. DNREC is now currently negotiating a new MOA to focus on a design scope and prioritization for using the funds. The majority of the legal language for a revised MOA has been worked out and DNREC hopes to finalize the scoping language in the next couple of weeks.
- The original federal funding was \$25 million, but since then the Corps has added another \$10 million. DNREC has the necessary 10% match on hand for these funds on hand, so state funding is not an issue.
- DNREC's position with the Corps will be to use the resources to address as many communities' vulnerabilities as possible, and DNREC has shared the latest *Bay Beach Nourishment Prioritization Plan (2023)* which quantifies that vulnerability.

Most of the beaches along Delaware Bay have been maintained for decades by the State. Beach nourishment is a useful tool that can mitigate coastal storm hazards while preserving natural space for people to enjoy. Some of the infrastructure you mentioned, like the Kent County wastewater treatment plant, is susceptible to myriad threats from climate change and beach nourishment along the Delaware Bay shoreline alone won't protect the treatment plant. We need to continue working together with each other and with partners like the Corps to preserve our natural resources and protect our state's infrastructure.

Thank you for reaching out to me and to the Attorney General, whose deputy attorneys general representing DNREC negotiated this agreement. We look forward to the finalizing this agreement and protecting our bay coast.

Sincerely,



John C. Carney

John Carney
Governor, State of Delaware