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MATTHEW MEYER
GOVERNOR

DELAWARE.GOV

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

As Governor of Delaware, I request that you direct the Secretary of the Army, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to invoke the emergency restoration authority under Section 8327 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (Division H, P.L. 117-263) to restore Delaware's public beaches, as well as critical coastal storm damage reduction structures.

Recent nor'easter storms, including one on October 14, have severely damaged Delaware's shoreline. The duration and force of these storms have caused damage equal to, and in some cases worse than, a hurricane. Coastal breaches and dune failures pose direct risks to public safety, emergency response operations, and economic stability. High winds, elevated tides, and sustained wave action have eroded public beaches, weakened storm protection systems, and jeopardized transportation infrastructure such as the Indian River Bridge.

Section 8327 authorizes the Secretary to restore any federally authorized structure or public beach in Delaware damaged by wind, wave, or water action from a Nor'easter when that damage prevents adequate protection against inundation, erosion, or coastal storm events. That condition is clearly met.

Delaware's coastal communities, economy, and infrastructure rely on USACE-maintained beaches to provide storm surge and flood protection. Immediate restoration will prevent further loss and protect people, homes, and small businesses. When natural protective barriers fail, emergency routes become impassable, evacuation corridors are threatened, and stormwater systems are overwhelmed—placing residents and first responders in danger. More delays will only increase risks to life and property and drive-up long-term disaster recovery costs.

Two of Delaware's biggest industries—tourism and agriculture—depend on coastal stability. Our beaches anchor a multibillion-dollar tourism industry that supports local businesses and jobs. Our agricultural sector, built on poultry production, grain exports, and agribusiness supply chains, relies on stable coastal corridors for transport, trade, and flood protections. Coastal

breaches also disrupt travel, damage infrastructure, and increase saltwater intrusion risks onto fertile forests and farmland. That's why protecting the shoreline means protecting jobs, commerce, and community vitality across Delaware.

In light of these urgent conditions, I respectfully request that you:

- Direct the Secretary of the Army to determine that conditions under Section 8327 of WRDA 2022 have been met, and that restoration is necessary to return our beaches to proper protective function;
- Authorize immediate emergency restoration under this section to protect life, property, and economic stability; and
- Prioritize Delaware's restoration activities with equal budgetary consideration and urgency under WRDA 2022.

Delaware stands ready to collaborate with the USACE at every step. Swift federal action is needed before additional storms cause preventable damage. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to coastal resilience and public safety. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your team to ensure rapid coordination and deployment of federal assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meyer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Meyer
Governor, State of Delaware

CC:

The Honorable Daniel Driscoll, Secretary of the Army

The Honorable Adam R. Telle, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

Lieutenant General William H. "Butch" Graham, Jr, Commanding General (USACE)

Major General Jason E. Kelly, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations