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March 11, 2021

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney
Senate President
New Jersey Senate
935 Kings Highway
Suite 400
West Deptford, NJ 08086

The Honorable Craig J. Coughlin
Assembly Speaker
New Jersey General Assembly
569 Rahway Ave.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

RE: The Shore Protection Fund

Dear Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin,

On behalf of our member companies who provide about 1 million jobs in the state, NJBIA writes to urge you to post A-639 (Mazzeo / Kean / Houghtaling / Downey / Thomson) / S-1071 (Kean / Gopal), which would increase funding for the Shore Protection Fund. This funding enables important beach replenishment projects that ensure the resiliency of the residential and commercial properties along our coasts.

Specifically, A-639 / S-1071 would double the annual allocation to the Shore Protection Fund from its 1998 level of \$25 million up to \$50 million annually. New Jersey's 127-mile coastline plays a primary role in the state's tourism industry, valued at \$19.8 billion in 2019 representing 3% of New Jersey's total GDP. It is also home to millions of New Jerseyans. Increasing our annual investment will renew New Jersey's commitment to replenishing and protecting our coastal communities. That commitment will be increasingly important for maintaining our vibrant coastal economies in the face of sea level rise.

The Jersey shoreline is a point of pride for all New Jerseyans whether they live, work, or visit these towns. To that end, we need to increase funding for the Shore Protection Fund. Thank you for your consideration and we urge you to post this bill. If you have any questions, please contact me at cbuteas@njbia.org

Sincerely,

Chrissy Buteas
Chief Government Affairs Officer

cc:
Senate Minority Leader Kean
Senator Gopal
Assemblyman Mazzeo
Assemblyman Kean
Assemblyman Houghtaling
Assemblywoman Downey
Assemblyman Thomson