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FRANK P. PETRONE
Supervisor

December 16, 2015

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
Army Corps Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Lt. General Bostick:

I want to thank you for the work the Army Corps of Engineers has done to address the flooding and erosion issues in the Village of Asharoken and the surrounding area. Upon reviewing the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Plan released on November 25, 2015, I would like to share my thoughts with regard to "public access points" that are required every half mile.

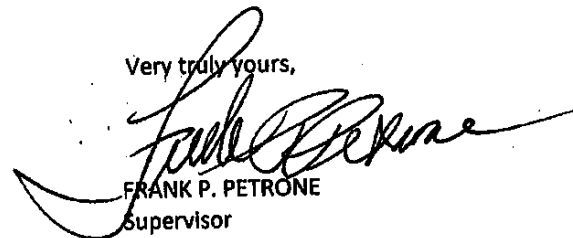
I certainly understand the need to spend public dollars on public spaces. This applies at the Town level as well. It is a harder notion for me to accept that this implies a need for the mandatory establishment of access points that would have to be located on private property. This would mean disrupting the homes and lives of local residents to a far greater extent than would result from creating public access on discreet parts of the beach under public ownership.

In addition, the beach at Asharoken is a very low-use beach and the project anticipates it will remain so. Aside from the disruption caused by the debate over intermediate access, the potential benefit from such access is so minor that the expenditure of additional money and effort on this aspect of the plan may, at best, be categorized as unwarranted.

I recognize that there must be public access to the beach, which can be accomplished by access at the end-points. I respectfully request that you reconsider the current plan's access requirements and develop one that balances, what I believe are, legitimate concerns of the residents with the overriding public purpose of stabilizing Asharoken Avenue, the only land link to our population living on Eaton's Neck, and the imperative to promote better public access to the nation's waterways.

I trust the Army Corps, the Village and the Town can work together to achieve these goals. Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Very truly yours,



FRANK P. PETRONE
Supervisor

cc: Hon. Steve Israel





INCORPORATED
VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN

ONE ASHAROKEN AVENUE
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768

(631) 261-7098

December 14th, 2015 (Sent via email) FAX (631) 262-0462

Dear Congressman Israel,

I appreciate all of your help and support for the Village of Asharoken in trying to get the ASDRP off the ground. The Village feels strongly that the requirement of public access to our private property as well as shouldering the total local cost share is inequitable due to the enormous benefit that the non-incorporated community of Eaton's Neck would receive. I have reviewed the economic appendix of the draft feasibility study and I would like to share an observation with you.

In the ACOE economic analysis it appears that one critical component of the economic benefit of the ASDRP to Eaton's Neck has been left out. There is no calculation to the likely reduction of property values should Asharoken Avenue be damaged, breached or just perceived as a unreliable and vulnerable means of access to Eaton's Neck. According to the ACOE there are 575 non Asharoken homes in EN and a reduction in value of \$100,000 per house as a result of a storm would cause a reduction in net worth of \$57,500,000 to these properties. This is potentially an optimistic calculation.

The ACOE has told the Village that as of now the economic benefit of protecting the road is only 30% of the total benefit. If the \$57,500,000 is added as a benefit of protecting the road the proportion of road protection would rise substantially. Therefore bolstering the Village's argument that the public benefit of this project has to be recognized as protecting the road and not public access to the beach.

The ASDRP should be recognized as a solution to a regional problem not just one limited to Asharoken. Public access to the private beaches in Asharoken and sole local cost sharing will be very difficult for Asharoken residents to accept. Should these two factors stop the project, the residents of Eaton's Neck will be denied the benefits they need and deserve.

In closing, thank you again for your support and help.

Regards

Mayor Greg Letica