

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Thomas J. Tickner  
Commanding General and Division Engineer  
North Atlantic Division  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
302 General Lee Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11252

Dear General Tickner:

We write regarding the Section 111 Shore Damage Mitigation Study on the Cape Cod Canal & Sandwich Beaches in Sandwich, Massachusetts,<sup>1</sup> which was recently transmitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District to the North Atlantic Division for review.

We commend the New England District for their concerted and thoughtful efforts to finalize this comprehensive and long desired study. This important study confirms the ongoing erosion of the Sandwich shoreline and concludes that associated threats to the shorefront have reached a “critical mass.” This erosion has created imminent and grave coastal threats from storms and flooding for a more than 600 acre saltmarsh, Sandwich’s historic district, private homes and businesses, public facilities, and Route 6A—which is among America’s most iconic highways and a key Cape Cod evacuation route.

The New England District’s study concludes that the jetties at the east end of the Canal “unquestionably and significantly increase erosion of the Sandwich shoreline along Town Neck Beach and Springhill Beach.” In particular, the study details that the erosion stretches along a reach of 10,800 linear feet, and it has led to the loss of 782,000 cubic yards of material—78 percent of which is associated with the Army Corps’ Canal Federal Navigation Project (FNP). Finally, the study projects that 900,000 cubic yards of material will be lost over the next 50 years.

To counteract the erosion directly attributable to the Canal FNP and mitigate the unprecedented threats, the District recommends the construction of a 388,000 cubic yard engineered dune and berm beach along Town Neck Beach. In consideration of the perpetual erosion due to the Canal FNP, the District also recommends pursuing a strategic plan for ongoing beach nourishment of Town Neck Beach over the long term, including through the use of sediment routinely dredged from the Cape Cod Canal.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District, Cape Cod Canal & Sandwich Beaches Section 111 Shore Damage Mitigation Study: 2021

In consideration of these findings and the growing imminent threats to the Sandwich community, we respectfully urge the North Atlantic Division to: (1) review the Section 111 study for a timely final release to the public; (2) advance the design and construction of the recommended beach nourishment project, including through robust funding from the U.S. Army Corps' budget; and (3) commence all follow up studies necessary for planning the long-term maintenance beach nourishment of the impacted area.

For more than 100 years, the Town of Sandwich has proudly served as a home of the Cape Cod Canal. As confirmed by the Section 111 study, one of the unfortunate consequences of serving as that home is experiencing dangerous levels of erosion, which now requires both an immediate and long term remedy to protect critical natural, public, and private infrastructure. We are grateful for the Army Corps' continued efforts to protect the Sandwich community and for your prompt attention to these requests.

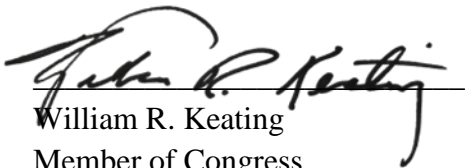
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress