



February 10, 2026

The Honorable Adam R. Telle  
Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

**RE: Presque Isle State Park, FY 2026 Sand Replenishment – U.S. Army Corp of Engineers**

Dear Mr. Telle,

We write to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to incorporate Presque Isle State Park in your Fiscal Year 2026 workplan for shore protection. It is imperative that this \$1.3 million project be considered given the pressing needs of local communities, and I ask that you give this project your full and fair consideration.

Located in Erie, Pennsylvania, Presque Isle State Park is one of the Commonwealth's most important natural, recreational, and economic assets. The park serves as a critical protective barrier for the Erie shoreline, safeguarding nearby infrastructure, neighborhoods, and public facilities from erosion and storm damage. Presque Isle is also a major driver of regional tourism, welcoming more than four million visitors annually and supporting thousands of jobs across Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Despite its importance, Presque Isle did not receive funding for sand replenishment during the last funding cycle. As a result, shoreline erosion has continued to accelerate, threatening public access, environmental resources, and the long-term sustainability of the park. Without the allocation of sand replenishment funds, erosion will continue to impact the beaches, trails, and habitat areas, ultimately leading to increased restoration costs and risks to surrounding communities. The failure to address this issue promptly will result in higher expenses in the long term to repair preventable damages.

We understand that the Army Corps of Engineers has a limited window to establish its workplan. Given the time-sensitive nature of shoreline erosion at Presque Isle and the consequences of further delay, we respectfully urge the Corps to prioritize and include sand replenishment for Presque Isle State Park in that workplan.

Sand replenishment at Presque Isle is a proven, cost-effective approach that protects federal, state, and local investments, enhances shoreline resilience, and preserves public access to critical Great Lakes resources. This funding would directly adhere to the Corps' objectives of reducing flood and storm damage risk, supporting environmental stewardship, and promoting sustained economic growth in coastal and Great Lakes communities.

We are grateful for the ongoing collaboration of the Army Corps of Engineers with state and local partners and appreciate your review of this request. We are prepared to assist in coordinating efforts and offering any further information needed as the workplan is being finalized.

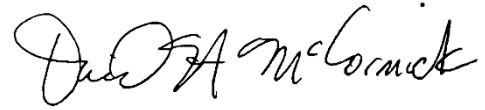
Sincerely,



Mike Kelly  
U.S. Representative  
16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District



John Fetterman  
United States Senator



David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



Dan Laughlin  
Pennsylvania State Senator  
District 49



Patrick J. Harkins  
Pennsylvania State Representative  
District 1



Robert E. Merski  
Pennsylvania State Representative  
District



Ryan A. Bizzarro  
Pennsylvania State Representative  
District 3



Jake Banta  
Pennsylvania State Representative  
District 4