

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

March 16, 2017

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

We write in support of Miami-Dade County's request to participate in two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) coastal renourishment programs authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act: the pilot program for the beneficial reuse of dredged material (Section 1122) and the study on the benefits and impacts of using domestic and nondomestic sources of sediment for shoreline protection (Section 1143).

Miami-Dade County's beaches are known worldwide as popular tourist destinations and are essential to the region's economic stability and growth. Furthermore, the durability of its beaches is critical in protecting and preserving beachfront infrastructure and several animal species. For these reasons, Miami-Dade County has worked with multiple stakeholders to proactively enhance and protect beaches from the effects of sea and wind erosion.

In fact, Miami-Dade County was a leading advocate for Section 1122 and Section 1143 of WIIN when the legislation was being considered by Congress. The county and USACE are currently working together to renourish its eroded shorelines, but the county's sand sources have been exhausted and an additional 3.6 million cubic yards of sand is still needed for the remaining restoration. As a result, USACE recently completed a Limited Reevaluation Report and Environmental Assessment justifying the county's need for alternative sand sources for renourishment.

The county's proactive steps to conserve its beaches and its dire need for alternative sand sources make it an ideal candidate for the Section 1122 beneficial use pilot program and the Section 1143 sediment sources study. Within all applicable rules and regulations, we encourage USACE to give favorable consideration to Miami-Dade County when selecting participants for these programs.

Thank you for your consideration. We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress