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## RESOLUTION 2026.03.02

### SUPPORTING H.R. 7459 – THE COASTAL TRUST FUND ACT

WHEREAS, Cape May County is a coastal community whose economy is overwhelmingly driven by tourism, with beaches, coastal ecosystems, and shoreline infrastructure serving as the foundation of its economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce represents over 930+ member businesses across a wide range of industries that depend directly and indirectly on the strength, accessibility, and resilience of our coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, coastal communities like those in Cape May County contribute significantly to the regional and national economy through tourism, hospitality, fisheries, and related industries, while also facing increasing environmental and infrastructure challenges due to coastal erosion, flooding, and severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 7459, known as the “Coastal Trust Fund Act”, introduced by Congressman Jefferson Van Drew, seeks to establish a dedicated funding mechanism to support coastal restoration, resilience, infrastructure protection, and long-term sustainability of coastal regions; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Coastal Trust Fund would provide reliable and consistent federal investment in projects that protect shorelines, strengthen infrastructure, enhance environmental stewardship, and safeguard the economic future of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 7459 establishes a trust fund known as the “Coastal Storm Risk Management Trust Fund” to support the federal share of the costs associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and periodic nourishment of coastal storm risk management projects; and

WHEREAS, the legislation provides that the Treasury of the United States shall credit the trust fund \$1,000,000,000 each fiscal year to support beach nourishment and related coastal storm risk management activities; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Trust Fund Act would alleviate the need for coastal communities to compete for limited and uncertain federal funding, allowing municipalities and counties to plan for regularly scheduled beach

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nourishment cycles and implement interim shoreline protection measures between projects; and

WHEREAS, every two (2) years, the United States Congress reviews and authorizes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes United States Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works projects to improve the nation's ports and harbors, inland waterways, flood and storm protections, and other water resources infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 WRDA authorization process is currently underway, and Congressman Jefferson Van Drew's office is seeking input regarding provisions that would support shoreline protection and beach nourishment projects impacting communities within Cape May County; and

WHEREAS, Cape May County, as one of New Jersey's leading tourism destinations and a significant contributor to state and federal revenues, has a vested interest in ensuring that coastal funding is equitable, predictable, and reflective of the region's contributions and vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, investment in coastal resilience directly supports local businesses, protects jobs, preserves property values, and ensures continued access to the beaches and natural assets that drive our economy; and

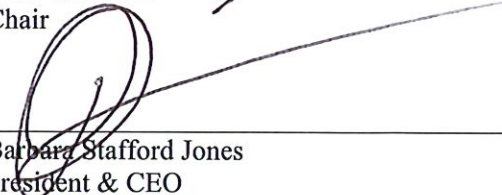
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce hereby expresses its strong support for H.R. 7459 – the Coastal Trust Fund Act, and commends Congressman Jefferson Van Drew for his leadership in advancing policies that protect and strengthen coastal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chamber urges members of the United States Congress to support and advance this legislation to ensure the long-term sustainability, resilience, and economic vitality of coastal regions such as Cape May County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Congressman Jefferson Van Drew and to members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation as a statement of the Chamber's support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution was adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026, by the Executive Board of Directors of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce.

  
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Elias Massood  
Chair

  
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Barbara Stafford Jones  
President & CEO

  
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Elizabeth Hulitt  
Secretary

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