

GREGORY F. MURPHY, M.D.
3RD DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

CO-CHAIR, DOCTOR'S CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

May 22, 2025

Chairman Tom Cole
H-307 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-6015

Ranking Member Rosa L. DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$4,500,000 to address the growing impacts of ocean energy on coastal infrastructure and communities. It offers a proactive, science-based solution to mitigate shoreline loss and ecosystem degradation while creating a safe space for public learning and engagement. By integrating environmental restoration with community access, the initiative fosters long-term resilience and strengthens the connection between people and the natural resources that support the Outer Banks culture and careers.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because The shoreline adjacent to CSI is eroding at an alarming rate of 6–10 feet per year, threatening critical estuarine habitat and the region's fisheries-based economy. Building on a successful pilot phase completed with The Nature Conservancy, this project will stabilize an additional 3,200 feet of shoreline using living shoreline techniques such as oyster sills and marsh restoration, while also constructing a raised, ADA-accessible boardwalk to reduce human impact on sensitive marshlands. The project will protect coastal ecosystems from storm surge and flooding, provide safe access for science education and eco-tourism, and strengthen the resilience of rural coastal communities that depend on healthy shorelines for their livelihoods.

The project has federal nexus because eligible under **42 U.S.C. § 5305**, which governs the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Specifically:

- **§ 5305(a)(2)** authorizes the *construction and installation of public works, facilities, and site improvements*. The project includes building 3,200 feet of living shoreline and a raised boardwalk—public infrastructure that protects natural resources, reduces erosion, and expands educational and recreational access.
- **§ 5305(a)(1)(C)** supports *conservation of open spaces and natural resources, and the provision of recreational opportunities*. The project conserves estuarine shoreline and marsh habitat while offering managed public access through the boardwalk and opportunities for eco-tourism.

- **§ 5305(a)(1)(B)** allows for *conservation activities*. This nature-based shoreline stabilization directly contributes to environmental conservation, resilience, and ecosystem health.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory F. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress
North Carolina's 3rd District