CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

BANKING
ENERGY
JUDICIARY
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 14, 2005

Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock
Commander and Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Headquarters
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear General Strock,

I write to ask you to immediately provide Suffolk County all necessary resources and assistance to contain the alarming erosion now threatening Tiana Beach in the Town of Southampton. Amongst other necessary actions, I specifically urge that the Army Corps dredge now operating in the Shinnecock Inlet be utilized to stabilize that portion of the coastline at risk of breach. The situation is urgent and a failure to take decisive action now could result in a disastrous, and extremely costly breach of the barrier island and the roads that connect it to Long Island.

Yesterday, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, issued a state of limited coastal emergency for a portion of Suffolk County located on Dune Road between Mermaid Lane and Ponquoge Bridge in Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton, State of New York, more commonly known as Tiana Beach. I anticipate that the state will amplify this emergency declaration paving the way for prompt Army Corps action. I also request that you provide a representative for the meeting County Executive Levy has called for Thursday February 17, 2005.

Tiana Beach located just east of Shinnecock inlet sits on the barrier island that separates the Atlantic Ocean from Moriches Bay and protects the main Island from the Ocean. A breach to this portion of the Island could have devastating results not only to the Barrier Island but also to hundreds of homes on the North side of Moriches bay that could experience flooding as a result. I am sure you are familiar with the breach that occurred at West Hampton Dunes 10 years ago. The cost to repair the damage would be just a fraction of what swift action here could avoid.

In addition to flooding and potential damage to property a breach here is also presents a threat to public safety. The barrier island at risk is a home to many year round residents who access the main Island via the Ponquoge Bridge. Dune Road separates the Tiana Beach from the bay wetlands and is the sole access road to the bridge that is utilized by residents and emergency workers to travel on the barrier island. The current emergency situation threatens the road and as a result creates a dangerous situation for the islands residents. A wash over or breach that renders a portion of Dune road un-passable will add significant response time to any emergency situation.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICE:

☐ ALBANY: LEO O'BRIEN BUILDING, ROOM 420, ALBANY, NY 12207, (518) 431-4070
☐ BINGHAMTON: FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING, 15 HENRY STREET, ROOM 86, BINGHAMTON, NY 13901, (607) 772-6809
☐ BUFFALO: 111 WEST HURON, ROOM 620, BUFFALO, NY 14202, (716) 846-4111
☐ HUDSON VALLEY: P.O. BOX A, RED HOOK, NY 12571, (914) 285-9741, (845) 569-0939
☐ LONG ISLAND: TWO GREENWAY PLAZA, 145 PINE LAWN ROAD, ROOM 300N, MELVILLE, NY 11747, (631) 753-0978
☐ NEW YORK CITY: 757 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1702, NEW YORK, NY 10017, (212) 486-4430, TDD: (212) 486-7661
☐ ROCHESTER: 100 STATE STREET, ROOM 3040, ROCHESTER, NY 14614, (716) 263-5866
☐ SYRACUSE: 100 SOUTH CLINTON, ROOM 841, SYRACUSE, NY 13261, (315) 423-5471
☐ WASHINGTON: 313 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC 20510, (202) 224-6542, TDD: (202) 224-0420

http://schumer.senate.gov

I am sure that you will do everything in your power to make sure that this bad situation does not get any worse. Please contact Christopher Hahn in my Long Island Office at 631-753-0978 to coordinate with me. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate