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\$5M boost for LBI beach replenishment project

Published in the Asbury Park Press 05/19/05

BY [ERIK LARSEN](#)
MANAHAWKIN BUREAU

Five million dollars was earmarked in the 2006 federal budget Wednesday for beach replenishment funding on Long Beach Island, clearing a key hurdle for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin shoring up 17 miles of oceanfront.

"This is a great moment in the history of Long Beach Island," said Rep. H. James Saxton, R-N.J., who made the announcement from Washington, D.C. late Wednesday afternoon. "It's a long-awaited day for island residents and seasonal visitors who will be well served to finally receive repairs to their storm-damaged beaches."

The House Appropriations Committee approved the 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill Wednesday after adding LBI funding to the budget under "storm protection funds." The bill still needs full House and Senate approval.

Doris Spigle, who owns oceanfront homes on Leeward and Kentford avenues in Beach Haven, has seen the storm-surfed surf come precariously close in recent years. The news from Washington was welcomed, she said.

"Well, it seems like this has

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been very successful in Ocean City," Spigle said of beach replenishment work there. "The problem is going to be in determining what lands are private. It'll be interesting to see what they come up with."

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The lack of public access to beaches in two affluent sections of Long Beach Township has been blamed for delays to the replenishment project going back to the early 1990s.

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