

TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH

105 Rodney Avenue
Dewey Beach, DE 19971
(302) 227-6363

RESOLUTION # 40

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH
SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE
OPPOSING S. 1405 and H.R. 3191
REGARDING REFORM OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
AND RECOMMENDING SUPPORT OF THE BOND AND BACCHUS/BAKER
LEGISLATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the above-referenced Bills (S. 1405 and H.R. 3191) are being deliberated in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives as the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1993; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need for reform of the present National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to be more actuarially sound and to maximize participation by the public; and

WHEREAS, the Bills would require mapping and establishment of said 30 and 60-year erosion zones along the entire U.S. coastline and Great Lakes, with similar plans for mapping our nation's rivers in the future; and

WHEREAS, the mapping and establishment of said 30 and 60-year erosion zones would be based on inexact science and result in arbitrary and unpredictable stigmatization of coastal and Great Lakes properties throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, these Bills do not permit the issuance of flood insurance policies for new construction or additions to existing structures seaward of the 30-year erosion zone; and

WHEREAS, these Bills do not permit the issuance of flood insurance policies for any non-residential or commercial structure, or additions to existing residential structures which render them immovable, located seaward of the 60-year zone; and

WHEREAS, these Bills would, therefore, greatly diminish the value of property within virtually every coastal and Great Lakes community in the nation because owners could not insure the structures on their property or sell to buyers who desire to finance the purchase of coastal property; and

WHEREAS, the assessors for the Town of Dewey Beach have determined that the proposed Bills would greatly reduce the amount of tax revenues collected from affected coastal properties in the Town of Dewey Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has not considered the potentially severe impact of these Bills on the value of residential and commercial property, community tax revenues, employment and future economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Bond and Bacchus/Baker bills take steps to ensure that participation in the National Flood Insurance Program is maximized and the insurance fund is made more actuarially sound; and

WHEREAS, the Bond and Bacchus/Baker bills would postpone the consideration of mapping and establishment of erosion control zones until after the completion of an economic impact study detailing the effect of erosion zones on community tax bases, property values, and employment and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Senate and the House of Representatives should not enact S. 1405 and H.R. 3191 in their current form because of the inequity to coastal and Great Lakes property owners and potentially severe impact on said communities; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, that


Section 1: The Town of Dewey Beach urges the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to reject S. 1405 and H.R. 3191 due to their devastating impact on the tax base of the Town of Dewey Beach, Sussex County, and the State of Delaware, and due to the fundamental unfairness of said legislation on coastal property owners.

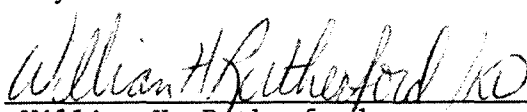
Section 2: The Town of Dewey Beach further recommends that the mapping of 30 and 60-year erosion zones be deleted from any flood insurance legislation until it can be unequivocally proven that such delineations will not have a devastating effect on coastal property values and coastal communities.

Section 3: The Town of Dewey Beach further recommends that the actuarial soundness of the National Flood Insurance Program be significantly increased by enforcing regulations to maximize participation in the program for uninsured structures already located in federally-designated flood-prone areas.

Section 4: The Town of Dewey Beach further recommends the passage of legislation, such as the Bond and Bacchus/Baker bills, which would increase participation in and the actuarial soundness of the National Flood Insurance Program, while studying the economic impact of the mapping of erosion hazard zones on affected communities.

Section 5: The Town Clerk of Dewey Beach is hereby directed to submit copies of this Resolution to U.S. Senator Joseph Biden, U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr., and Congressman Michael N. Castle as the Congressional delegation of the State of Delaware, as well as members of the U.S. Senate and House Banking Committees, and the appropriate public entities of other similarly situated communities in the State of Delaware.


James J. Lavelle
Mayor

Attest: 
William H. Rutherford
Town Clerk