

**February 27, 2020****Waterfront Alliance and 40+ organizations call for reinstating funding and fixing critical resilience planning**

Waterfront Alliance, with 42 other organizations, is calling for the restoration of funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coastal resilience study, with reforms that take into account sea level rise and provide residents a full voice in decision-making.

Let's talk about how we got here. Sure, the study has been flawed, in part due to the fact that the federal government inaccurately incorporates sea level rise into how we do business (from the Corps to FEMA) or outright prevents it from being included (until last month, a bill rider prevented this study from including 2013 climate change and environmental justice best practices). And secondly, there hasn't been much of a public process (a handful of New Yorkers and even fewer New Jerseyans were aware of the study, much less empowered in decision-making). Sledgehammers rarely fix things, and our federal government effectively said to states from Virginia to Maine that their resilience to flooding is not worth it.

Let's talk about that, too. In one year alone (2017), our nation suffered more than \$300 billion in damages, primarily due to flood. That's about the GDP of Ireland. One in ten public housing developments is in the floodplain. In our region, every county has had disaster declarations, again primarily due to flood. More than 100 square miles of wetlands are at risk due to sea level rise.

The proposed sea gate between Sandy Hook and the Rockaways is a flawed concept, but let's not pull federal funding for examining other options. You can't fight sea level rise with mops and buckets.

**Roland Lewis, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance**  
**Kate Boicourt, Director of Resilience, Waterfront Alliance**

**Board Of Trustees**Chris Ward,  
*Chair*John R. Boulé, II,  
*Vice-chair*Kathy Robb  
*Vice-chair*Jennifer L. Costley, Ph.D.  
*Treasurer*Kate Sinding, Esq.  
*Secretary*Jake Beinecke,  
*Asst. Treasurer*

Robert W. Balder

Kent L. Barwick

Jeffrey Hwang

Hillary Lane

Rick Larrabee

Peter Madonia

Capt. Andrew McGovern

Michael O'Keeffe

Julie Pullen, Ph.D.

Constantine (Gus)  
Sanoulis

Peggy Shepard

Michael Stamatias

Richard S. Weeks

Steve Wilson

Dawn Zimmer

Roland Lewis,  
*President and CEO*