

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Director Vought and Assistant Secretary Telle,

We write today to respectfully request that the FY 2027 President's Budget Request include funding for a feasibility study on the erosion of the Chincoteague Inlet on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Originally authorized under the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, the Town of Chincoteague and its regional partners have worked diligently for nearly a decade to advance this study in response to increasingly severe erosion in and around the inlet. The Town's formal request dates to 2015. Since that time, the Town has secured the required non-federal cost share and has received broad support from the Virginia General Assembly, Accomack County and members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation. Despite our collective record of local, state, and federal partnership, the study has not yet been included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' annual Work Plan.

Stabilizing the Chincoteague Inlet is essential not only for protecting the residents and working waterfront of the Town of Chincoteague, but also for safeguarding major federal assets in the region. Among these are NASA Wallops Flight Facility, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, and nearby Navy facilities, all of which rely on stable inlet and coastal conditions for operational access, safety, and mission continuity. As private and federal investments at Wallops Island continue to grow, so does the urgency of obtaining the scientific analysis necessary to evaluate mitigation measures and long-term stabilization strategies.

Inclusion of this study in the President's Budget Request would provide essential support for federal participation and ensure the study receives full consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the relevant appropriations subcommittees.

As representatives committed to Virginia's coastal communities and the broader needs of our Nation, we strongly support efforts that strengthen water resources infrastructure, protect vulnerable populations, and promote responsible shoreline management. Federal investment in this feasibility study would advance these goals while helping safeguard the economic and environmental well-being of the region.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to your response and stand ready to provide any additional information that may assist in your evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen A. Riggans", written over a horizontal line.

Jen A. Riggans
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Warner", written over a horizontal line.

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator