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COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP CORRECTION—UNIT DE-03P, CAPE HENLOPEN, DE

MARCH 26, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

Filed, under authority of the order of the Senate of March 25, 1999

Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public
Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[to accompany S. 574]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (S. 574) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make correction to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, having considered the same reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

The Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) is comprised of undeveloped coastal barriers along the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Coastal barriers are landscape features that shield the mainland from the full force of wind, wave and tidal energies. Coastal barriers come in a variety of forms that include bay barriers, tombolos, barrier spits, barrier islands, dune or beach barriers, and fringing mangroves. Besides bearing the brunt of impacts from storms and erosion, most coastal barriers are composed of unconsolidated sediment such as sand or gravel. The geological composition makes coastal barriers highly unstable areas. Despite their instability, many coastal barriers are under heavy development pressure.

Congress passed the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982 in an effort to address problems caused by coastal barrier development. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act restricts Federal expenditures and financial assistance, including Federal flood insurance, for development on coastal barriers in the CBRS. By restricting funding for Federal programs that encourage development of coastal barriers Congress sought to minimize loss of human life; reduce wasteful expenditure of Federal funds; and protect the natural resources associated with coastal barriers.

The Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 added "Otherwise Protected Areas" (OPAs) to the System. OPAs are undeveloped coastal barriers within the boundaries of lands reserved for conservation purposes such as wildlife refuges and parks. In addition, the 1990 Act added to the System coastal barriers in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The CBRS currently includes 850 units, comprising approximately 3 million acres and approximately 2,500 shoreline miles.

Undeveloped coastal barriers were identified and mapped using criteria developed by the Department of the Interior and later approved by Congress. Aerial photographs and ground inspections were used to verify the boundaries, and the results were then mapped on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps. Except for minor and technical modifications to the CBRS unit boundaries to reflect changes that have occurred as a result of natural forces, modifications of CBRS unit boundaries require Congressional approval.

This bill makes two boundary changes to Unit DE-03P. Unit DE-03P has been part of the coastal barrier resources system since the passage of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990. The first change will modify the northeastern boundary. At the time that the Unit's boundary was put into effect in November 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was not aware that a portion of the Cape Shores development and land occupied by the Barcroft Company were included within the upper northeast edge of the unit boundary. Documents now show that development began to be put in place in April 1990. The second change modifies the northwestern boundary to include a section of the Cape Henlopen State Park that was mistakenly excluded when the boundary was drawn. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that both modifications constitute a technical correction.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee makes evaluation of the regulatory impact of the reported bill. The reported bill will provide regulatory relief to landowners in the affected unit. This bill will not have any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4), the committee finds that S. 574 would impose no Federal intergovernmental unfunded mandates on State, local,

or tribal governments. All of its governmental directives are imposed on Federal agencies. The bill does not directly impose any private sector mandates.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On March 10, 1999, Senator Biden introduced S. 574, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to change a map relating to one unit, DE-03P. No hearings were held on this bill. On Wednesday, March 17, 1999, the committee on Environment and Public Works held a business meeting to consider S. 574. S. 574 was favorably reported out of the committee by voice vote.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires that a statement of the cost of the reported bill, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, be included in the report. That statement follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 1999.

Hon. JOHN H. CHAFEE, *Chairman,*
Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 574, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN,
Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

S. 574, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on March 17, 1999

CBO estimates that enacting S. 574 would result in no significant cost to the Federal Government. Because the bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we expect that net changes in direct spending would be negligible. S. 574 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

S. 574 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to correct the map of the Cape Henlopen Unit of the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The proposed correction would revise the boundary of this unit to include an additional 245 acres of State park lands and ex-

clude about 32 acres of developed property. This change would provide additional environmental protection for the State park and would enable local property owners occupying the excluded acreage to obtain Federal flood insurance. Once insurance policies have been written on the affected property, offsetting collections from premiums paid into the national flood insurance fund would increase by less than \$50,000 per year. Collections would be partially offset by new mandatory spending for underwriting and administrative expenses. The Federal Government might also incur additional costs for losses associated with any future floods that might affect this land, but CBO has no basis for predicting such floods or their resulting costs.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires the committee to publish changes in existing law made by the bill as reported. Passage of this bill will make no changes to existing law.

