

BEDCO

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Blades Economic Development Corporation
Managers of Nanticoke River Marine Park

July 27, 2011

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Ms. Darcy:

We are writing to you in regards to the proposed Nanticoke River dredging project. We understand that the Army Corps of Engineer's budget originally included \$160,000 for the engineering and design of this much needed project. We have learned that only \$49,900 was appropriated for this project.

The remaining \$110,100 is desperately needed to accomplish the work that needs to be done. The Nanticoke River is a major water artery running through Delaware and Maryland and connects to the Chesapeake Bay and is used for commerce as well as recreation.

We operate the Nanticoke River Marine Park in Blades, Delaware which is the navigable head of the Nanticoke River. We have sailboats and deep draft vessels (up to 7') that visit or reside in our marina. There are sections of the proposed dredge area that have shoaled to a depth of 8' at mean low tide. If we have an excessive low tide that depth, of course, is even shallower.

As business men and women, we certainly understand the budget process and realize that difficult decisions must be made. However, this project must move forward to prevent a detrimental effect on the area's business and economic future. Sussex County has already purchased property for the disposal site and is prepared to carry forward it's commitment to this much needed navigation project.

We humbly ask for your help in getting the Nanticoke River Dredging Project accomplished.

Respectfully,



William F. Biscoe
President