



Fund Critical EPA Programs to Protect U.S. Beaches from Sewage Pollution

Hundreds of millions of Americans and visitors enjoy U.S. beaches every year, trusting that the water is safe for recreation. The following investments in EPA programs will help protect ocean water quality, provide families with the information they need to stay safe at the beach, and safeguard our valuable coastal tourism-based economies.

PROBLEM

Sewage spills and stormwater runoff threaten the health of beachgoers and coastal ecosystems. Sewage spills and failing wastewater infrastructure impact water quality by discharging raw and under-treated sewage into local waterways and the ocean. Sewage contains bacteria, viruses and parasites that make people sick with gastrointestinal symptoms, rashes, and worse. Sewage discharges also pollute waterways with excess nitrogen that wreaks havoc on coastal ecosystems by fueling harmful algal blooms that harm human health, cause fish kills, damage wetlands, and smother coral reefs. This pollution threatens our ocean and Great Lakes tourism and recreation economies that are valued at over \$143 billion annually and support 2.46 million jobs nationwide.



SOLUTION

Sufficient water quality monitoring is needed to protect public health and inform solutions, while investments are needed to repair, upgrade and ensure climate resilience for America's failing water infrastructure.

Support: Appropriations of \$15 million for the EPA BEACH Act Grants program to provide support for beach water quality monitoring and public notification programs in coastal states and territories.

Support: Appropriations of \$4 billion for the EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade failing wastewater infrastructure and stop sewage spills at the source.

Support: Appropriations of \$100 million for the EPA Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program to address the sewage pollution crisis and advance environmental justice at the US-Mexico border.