



Support the BEACH Act to Protect Beach Water Quality and Public Health

Hundreds of millions of Americans and visitors enjoy U.S. beaches every year, driving coastal tourism and recreation industries valued at \$138 billion and supporting 2.5 million jobs nationwide. Water quality monitoring programs funded through EPA's Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act Grants Program provide families with the information they need to stay safe at the beach and safeguard our valuable coastal economies.

PROBLEM

The BEACH Act has been chronically underfunded for the last 20 years, causing gaps in state and local water quality testing programs. This leaves beach goers unknowingly at risk of exposure to pathogens from failing sewage infrastructure and stormwater runoff. Recreating in polluted water can cause skin infections, gastrointestinal symptoms and worse, and cost Americans an estimated \$2.9 billion nationwide.



SOLUTION

Sufficient water quality monitoring and public notification of pollution events are needed to protect public health and inform solutions. The American public deserves to know if a visit to the beach could make them sick.

Support: Appropriations of \$15 million for the EPA BEACH Act Grants program in FY25 to fund beach water quality monitoring and public notification programs in coastal states and territories.

Support: H.R. 7203 BEACH Act of 2024 to extend the authorization of the EPA's BEACH Act Grants program to allow states more flexibility to protect public health where it is most needed and to identify local sources of pollution to restore clean water.