

CZM Friends Letter

We write to express strong support for the National Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM Program), which has an immense value to the citizens that live, visit, and work in coastal states and territories, and to the nation as a whole.

An exemplary state-federal partnership since 1972, the CZM Program supports the congressionally-recognized national importance of “*effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone.*”¹ A tenet of the CZM Program is that healthy coastal resources support both business and conservation, and that long-term planning is essential for coastal areas to remain the economic drivers they are today.

Leveraging resources with a state-match requirement, the CZM Program entrusts states to:

- Provide financial and technical assistance to local communities
- Protect natural resources
- Manage development in high hazard areas
- Ensure coastal-dependent businesses retain access to waterways
- Coordinate state and federal actions to create permit and regulatory efficiencies

In FY 2017, states and territories matched over \$56.9 million in investment in the CZM Program, but the impact of this program goes beyond simple dollars and cents. The CZM program helps ensure that, across the coastal zone of every state, our nation’s coastal communities are able to plan for an uncertain future and help protect lives and investments on the coast.

The CZM Program has helped organizations and communities, like ours, achieve coastal management successes for over 45 years. The program has broad support from communities, businesses, and organizations like those listed below. We urge you to continue your support for this vital program.

¹ Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1451 (1972).