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**Subject:** Fw: Governor Perdue  
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Sent via email: [governor.office@nc.gov](mailto:governor.office@nc.gov)  
AND  
United States Postal Service

Governor Beverly Perdue  
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Dear Governor Perdue,

It was great to meet you in person at Buxton and shake the hand of the governor that I voted for. I know you enjoyed the rest of the day at your son's wedding. That was a happy time. These islands of the Outer Banks are all about "happy times" for people.

The beaches have a rich heritage of public use. Many generations of villagers and visitors have found the beaches necessary for recreational activities, relaxation and commercial pursuits.

The NPS has consistently destroyed bird habitat on the island beaches and continues to do so by their policies and actions. Every year they have established pre-nesting closures that lure birdlife to areas of habitat that are unsuitable for species survival. They refuse to restore the good habitat that once existed. At the urging of outside organizations, the NPS manages the wildlife by the removal of human visitors from the beaches that are the major attraction of this park unit. Hundreds of mammals are declared predators and sacrificed at the Bird Altar each year by NPS trappers.

The ocean beaches under NPS control are not hospitable to bird life. These are recreational beaches subject to human activity. Natural predators abound on the beaches and in adjoining vegetation. Wash over and swamping from heavy surf are normal during nesting season.

Birdlife along the Carolina coast needs good, safe, habitat to survive. The State of North Carolina can provide this habitat by creating dredge spoil islands within the protected waters of Pamlico Sound. The experience with Cora June Island has been very successful for propagation of many bird species in a predator-free environment. Additional dredge islands have been proposed by two scientists: Jonathan B. Cohen for piping plovers and Shiloh Schulte for American Oyster Catchers.

It is critical that the state dredge a channel in Pamlico Sound from Ocracoke Inlet to Oregon Inlet. The channel need not be deep water. A depth of about six feet would serve. The channel should run completely in state waters, but close to the NPS boundary (usually 150 feet from shore). The dredge spoils from the operation would be used to create a string of barren islands to serve as bird habitat. Control of the bird islands needs to be under NCWRC since NPS would make no effort to maintain them. It is important that the spoil islands be close to the NPS boundary such that NCWRC can count birdlife on them, along with the ocean beaches as being one population.

There are many other advantages that would accrue from this long channel:

1. An additional bottom structure in these shallow waters would increase marine biodiversity and population.
2. Both commercial and recreational fishing would benefit.
3. Boating would be safer and access would be improved to all villages on the two islands.
4. The channel would provide for emergency boat traffic. As an illustration from our recent history:

A fleet of private volunteer vessels was used daily to ferry construction and relief workers from Frisco to Hatteras villages after Hurricane Isabel breached the island. The new inlet left Hatteras village completely isolated. Both Hatteras and Ocracoke islands are expected to over wash from future storms.

Rapid replacement of infrastructure is not always possible when dealing with lands controlled by the NPS. Their resource people viewed "Isabel Inlet" as fresh habitat that could not be disturbed. The best that NPS could offer was to promise a quick review of any permits sought by the state or county to construct a bridge or ferry landing. Fortunately for the villagers, Tom Ridge appeared and exercised his new Homeland Security power to order the inlet closed by dredge sand. Tom Ridge then told the obstructionists to get out of the way! We cannot always count on a Tom Ridge to come to our rescue.

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Even then the NPS caused a halt in the recovery operation by declaring that the dredge pipe could not pass through bird resting (not nesting) habitat. This halt proved to be only temporary, but is typical of the hardships created by the NPS on the island people.  
5. The location of the dredge islands within North Carolina state waters would enable NCWRC to maintain quality of bird habitat, devoid of predators, by deposition of fresh sand and shell to control vegetation growth.

The dredge island project lies completely within the power of the State of North Carolina. In an additional matter, I ask for your support of the federal legislations of HR718 and S1557 to return some level of sanity into the administration of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Bob Davis  
/eaz

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