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RECEIVED

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Mr. David Vela
 NPS Southeast Regional Director
 100 Alabama Street, SW
 1924 Building
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303

August 14, 2010

CC: Southeast Regional Deputy Director, Mark Woods; Southeast Regional Chief LE Officer, Mike Anderson; Southeast Regional Interpretational Officer, Gordon Wissinger; Southeast Regional Field Officer, Sherri Fields

Dear Mr. Vela,

My parents first brought our family to Hatteras Island in 1970. We have owned a vacation home in Avon since 1978. For most of this time, the island community viewed the NPS as the steward of our precious resource and respected its employees. Unfortunately, the NPS is now regarded as pursuing a political agenda strongly opposed by the majority of the island's residents and property owners.

In 1952, NPS director Conrad Wirth met with the people of the Outer Banks and made this promise:

"Concerning access to the beach, when I met with you I explained that when the lands for the recreational area are acquired and become public property there will always be access to the beach for all people, whether they are local residents or visitors from the outside." National Archives, ARC Identifier 279414

Descendents of the people Conrad Wirth met still live on the islands. They, along with most of the island community, consider the NPS to have broken Director Wirth's promise.

A constructive relationship between the NPS and the park's residents and property owners is the only long term solution. The NPS must:

- **Write an ORV plan that embraces effective resource conservation and robust recreational access.** The current proposal (Alternative F in the DEIS) accomplishes neither by closing miles of beach to protect a handful of marginal nesting sites.
- **Work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to ensure that Bonner Bridge is replaced immediately.** Were the bridge to become unusable, the resulting bankruptcies and foreclosures will make the situation far worse.
- **Partner with the island community to ensure that conservation goals are met. Vigorously oppose future environmental lawsuits.** The current course of action has wasted millions of dollars and done little or nothing for the birds and turtles.

Regards,


 Douglas Barton