

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

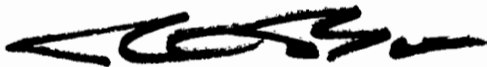
Dear Secretary Salazar:

On January 31, 2011, we wrote jointly to urge you to work with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that final regulations governing Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use on Cape Hatteras National Seashore will maximize public access to the extent permissible under the law. The impacts of these regulations will be felt throughout the local economy, and we remain concerned that the ongoing rulemaking process does not reflect the input of local residents and businesses.

With this in mind, we write to share with you the attached correspondence, and to urge you to meet with representatives of the local community to discuss these potential impacts.

Should you or your staff need any further information, please contact Margaret Brooks in Senator Burr's office, Joshua Bowlen in Congressman Jones's office, and Perrin Cooke in Senator Hagan's office.

Thank you,



Richard Burr  
U.S. Senator



Kay R. Hagan  
U.S. Senator



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

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**American Sportfishing Association  
Cape Hatteras Anglers Club  
Dare County Board of Commissioners  
North Carolina Beach Buggy Association  
Outer Banks Preservation Association  
Red Drum Tackle Shop**

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The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary  
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Dear Secretary Salazar,

As government and community leaders residing in and around Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, we are requesting a meeting with you regarding our concerns with the process to develop an off-road vehicle (ORV) management plan for the seashore. While we strongly believe resource protection measures for the wildlife in the seashore are necessary, the ongoing process to develop the management plan has resulted in a proposal that unduly burdens visitors, local residents and economy, with potential precedent setting implications for public access to public lands. An opportunity to discuss our concerns would be greatly appreciated.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area is a premier location along the east coast for many recreational activities, including surf fishing, kite boarding, kayaking, and bird watching, attracting visitors from across the country and supporting much of the local economy. Many of these activities require use of off-road vehicles to access areas of the seashore.

Visitors, residents and businesses in and around Cape Hatteras, North Carolina have been working with the National Park Service on an off-road vehicle management plan since the 1970s, with the most activity occurring over the past five years, including a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee process to assist in development of a fair and reasonable management plan. Unfortunately, the communities now understand that the process was used as a means in which to draft overly-restrictive management measures that will severely impair the visitor experience and cripple a local economy that depends on tourism and reasonable access. This outcome is reflected in the December 20, 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement issued by the National Park Service, which includes a preferred alternative that is the most restrictive management option to date.

Mr. Secretary, please be assured that the communities understand and fully support the importance of healthy natural resources within in the seashore. It is not our intent to skirt those legal and moral responsibilities. Our desire is for the Department of the Interior to fully

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
4/4/11  
Page 2

understand the contribution local communities make to neighboring national parks and in the case of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area the importance of striking a better balance between resource protection and reasonable public access to public lands and resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate the full suite of challenges you currently face and we do not make this request lightly but the Hatteras community is facing economic challenges, and the visiting public is facing recreational access challenges that need the immediate attention of your office.

Sincerely,

John Couch, President  
Outer Banks Preservation Association

Bob Eakes, Owner  
Red Drum Tackle Shop

Larry Hardham, President  
Cape Hatteras Anglers Club

David Joyner, President  
North Carolina Beach Buggy Association

Warren Judge, Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners

Gordon Robertson, Vice President  
American Sportfishing Association