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MANAKIN-SABOT VA 23103  
June 15, 2011



Director Jonathan B. Jarvis  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW Room 3112  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

I am writing to you as a result of reading a letter to you from Mr. Robert Eakes and your reply which was posted on the Island Free Press web site. I felt compelled to offer you a vastly different point of view than Mr. Eakes and his highly organized and vocal cronies have of the situation on Hatteras Island.

I also participated in the failed Negotiated Rule Making Process and attended every meeting except the last two. I can tell you that people like Mr. Eakes and Mr. Folb were major impediments in the process and did everything possible to prevent any consensus on any realistic solutions. They were arrogant, defiant, and totally obstructionist in the process of trying to negotiate a solution. They demanded nothing short of complete unregulated driving on any stretch of the beach at any time. I was there every step of the way, representing the non resident property owners. We, unfortunately, are a very large but almost unheard voice in this issue. The fact of the matter is that almost 70% of all residences on the island are owned by non residents who pay the vast majority of taxes. Because we can not vote, we are completely ignored by the county government and during the rule making process were often mocked and insulted by the Honorable Mr. Judge and people like Mr. Eakes.

The real economic engine that drives all of the economy of that island is the rental properties that draw thousands of week long visitors to the island. Mr. Eakes and his followers would want you to believe that it is all about beach driving and fishing which can only be done from a vehicle and nothing else is important. This is simply not the case and the research done by the NPS supports my point. Unfortunately, there was very little data for the committee to review regarding what people did when they visited the island and what the real attractions for people are. The reality is that only a very, very small part of the visitors are even interested in driving. I have rented my ocean front home in Hatteras Village for 14 years now and in our guest book, where the renters can leave comments, not one comment has ever been registered about driving on the beach. We get numerous comments about sunsets, surf, walking the beach and family togetherness. We rent 26 weeks a year and accommodate upwards of 18 people per week. With over 6,000 cumulative visitors, not a single comment has been written about this issue. I might add, that my house provides on island employment, part time, for 7-9

people each week it is rented and almost \$20,000 per year to the management company in the form of fees and commissions.

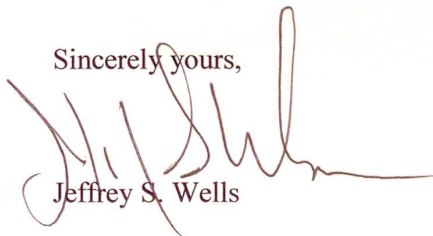
In 2008 the beach driving fanatics wanted everyone to believe the economic downturn on Hatteras was the result of diminished opportunity to drive, and beach closures, not the national economic disaster. They claimed loss of business in excess of 50%, but refused to let anyone validate their claims by examining their books. This year, despite the heighten restrictions on beach access, numerous closures and the closure of the point we are having the best rental season since Hurricane Isabel. Keep in mind that most of the rental bookings were made a year ago, knowing full well that many favorite spots might have restrictions on them. The beauty and naturalness of this spot continues to trump the few who want to drive anywhere at any time. This week our rental manager informed us that their 500+ homes have 100% occupancy. This is during the peak of closures and restrictions.

Please do not let the hard work and dedication of your staff be attacked and the efforts made to date reduced in any way by these very vocal beach driving fanatics. It is unfortunate that this problem was not resolved when it was required by Executive Orders. I wish you could survey the non resident owners who, from my involvement, are 10 to 1 in favor or neutral about the direction these new regulations are taking. These are the opinions you will not hear as many are fearful of retaliation from these groups and "the locals". I hope that this year the data collection efforts will produce a profile of the visitors that will contradict the driving fanatics about how important this freedom actually is to the vast majority of users. I believe that less than 10% of the visitors have any interest in driving on the beaches.

When highway 12 was constructed in the early 50's there were virtually no 4 wheel drive vehicles produced in America. What was envisioned then and what exists today are vastly different. Anyone who cannot recognize the profound changes in the last 60 years is really living in a fantasy world. There needs to be regulation that reflects the laws and reality of today and the regulation proposed does just that.

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you and can assure you I will not be sharing this letter with anyone, or any reply I might receive from your office. I do not belong to any environmental group or any other special interest group and want to maintain my neutrality in this ongoing process. I am the President of the Hatteras Landing Homeowners Association.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey S. Wells