



Good evening. My name is Robin Mann and I am representing the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and its 1,000 plus members in Currituck, Dare and Hyde counties.

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce supports the short bridge alternative as now stated and believes it is the only fiscally responsible and viable option available. The construction of this replacement bridge has been discussed, analyzed and studied for over 20 years. Costs for ongoing repairs have continued to mount at an alarming rate while estimates of construction of the new bridge have escalated dramatically. The timely construction of this bridge is vital to maintaining safe, efficient and reliable access and egress to and from Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. If the existing bridge reaches a critical point of disrepair before the new bridge is completed, it will have a devastating economic effect not only on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands, but to all of Dare County, northeast North Carolina and the entire state.

The Bonner Bridge is a critical transportation link to and from Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands and is important to maintaining the economic and social health, public safety, business and commerce, tourism, and quality of life of residents on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. The Chamber membership strongly supports the timely construction of the short bridge to insure the current level of paved access to the north end of Hatteras Island, an important recreational resource for fishing, windsurfing and beach enjoyment for our visitors and residents and the only access to the historic Coast Guard Station on the south side of Oregon Inlet. The Bonner Bridge is also the link that allows the citizenry of the entire United States access to their Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreational Area.

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce urges the N.C. Dept of Transportation to begin construction of the bridge in such a manner as to be economically feasible, capable of being constructed within the necessary time frame to maintain full transportation to and from Hatteras Island and which maintains a full level of access to the entire area south of Oregon Inlet that is enjoyed by the public today.