



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.8144 *Voice* • 252.441.0338 *Fax*

info@outerbankschamber.com

On behalf of more than 1,000 business members of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to strongly urge the United States Congress and the President to resolve the issues that have caused the closure of our national treasures including the National Parks, Lighthouse access, beaches, and memorials in Dare, Currituck and Hyde Counties.

The Outer Banks, North Carolina region is a tourist based economy that depends on visitors to our area. The closure of these federal grounds has caused hardship to those businesses that depend on our visitors for their livelihood. This hardship is exacerbated ten-fold for each day the parks and beaches remain closed. The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce is fielding calls and walk-ins to our lobby from people concerned about the closures who are considering cancelling their plans to come to our area because of the shutdown.

Visitors spend more than \$385 million for lodging and \$208 million for prepared food annually in our region of North Carolina. These expenditures generated a significant amount of sales tax revenue as well as income for investment owners in places such as Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Rockingham and many other communities throughout the state. Visitors to Dare County also contributed revenues to the state through taxes collected on merchandise sales as well as gasoline sales. All of this translates to federal taxes and support as well. In addition, those federal workers who have been furloughed are part of our community and must suffer this hardship needlessly.

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce urges you, the House and the Senate, to work together to find a quick resolution to these issues as well as finding agreement on the debt ceiling crisis facing our nation. What example do we set for future generations if we can't get our house in order? This is a crucial and critical time for our country, we urge you to employ professionalism, collaboration, and common sense and move toward an outcome that is in the best interest of the people of this great nation. At minimum we urge you to find a way to reopen the National Parks Service facilities enabling our economy to continue to be fruitful.

We look forward to your quick resolution of this situation.

Sincerely,

Your key to information and services on North Carolina's Outer Banks!

www.outerbankschamber.com





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