



**RESOLUTION ASKING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO FUND THE COASTAL STORM DAMAGE MITIGATION FUND**

WHEREAS, North Carolina tourism represents an economic engine that is vital to North Carolina's future economic prosperity and generates State tax revenue that benefits all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, one of the cornerstones of North Carolina's tourism economy are its pristine beaches that attract visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, in order to sustain North Carolina's tourism economy and safeguard the tax revenue that it generates, it is imperative that the State's shorelines remain healthy, vibrant, and sustainable; and

WHEREAS, the shorelines of North Carolina are under constant threat of natural hazards and erosion, which has an adverse impact on wildlife, public infrastructure, and private property; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, federal funds for beach nourishment projects have decreased significantly forcing coastal communities, such as Dare County, Currituck County and Ocracoke Island, to use local dollars to fund beach nourishment projects; and

WHEREAS, as more of the State's shoreline becomes vulnerable and in need of nourishment or re-nourishment, local dollars alone are unable to fund the amount that is needed to sustain and preserve North Carolina's beaches and safeguard the benefit that coastal tourism contributes to the State's economy; and

WHEREAS, multiple areas in our coastal communities have undergone significant beach erosion in recent years that cannot be sufficiently addressed with local resources alone; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Legislature in 2017 had the foresight to include in HB56 a provision to create a Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund that would be used for costs associated with beach nourishment, artificial dunes, and other projects to mitigate or remediate coastal storm damage; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund would match local dollars on a cost-shared basis thus allowing local beach nourishment funds to be effectively leveraged for maximum benefit; and

WHEREAS, although the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund has been created, a funding source has not yet been allocated by the State to provide the infrastructure benefit that the General Assembly intended in establishing the special revenue fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce representing over 1,000 businesses and organizations, respectfully requests that the North Carolina General Assembly vote in the upcoming short session to fund the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund as an urgent matter of public importance to safeguard and protect the shoreline infrastructure that fuels the engine of North Carolina's tourism economy and that no current local revenue streams be used for the purpose of funding the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund.

Adopted this the 11th day of June, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen S. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen S. Brown, President & CEO