



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

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January 25, 2013

RE: Hatteras Inlet

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 1,000 businesses along the 120 miles of coastline in Dare, Hyde, and Currituck Counties; this includes numerous businesses on Hatteras Island and in Ocracoke village.

The recent shoaling in Hatteras Inlet has caused and continues to cause challenges for residents, visitors, business owners, and suppliers to the Hatteras Island and Ocracoke areas. Without a safe and reliable channel for the ferry service to operate, this area is experiencing unnecessary economic and quality of life issues on a daily basis.

Hatteras Inlet is a crucial lifeline for the residents and workforce of Ocracoke village as well as those on Hatteras Island. The added travel cost of the vendors and service companies that do business in Ocracoke village will be reflected in the prices charged to businesses receiving services/products and will have to be passed on to the consumer, thus making life even more expensive in the village.

In addition, public safety is at risk; patients cannot reach their doctors in times of emergency without taking the alternate ferry route that adds precious hours to their journey. Patients also cannot reach the clinic or pharmacy on Hatteras Island without driving approximately 6.5 hours from Swan Quarter and riding on ferries to and from the mainland for 5 hours, a total of 12 hours in order to receive medical help.

Workers who use the ferry daily between the islands so that they can go to work are also either being cut off from reaching their employment or are having to make arrangements to lodge near their jobs – another added cost.

School children in Ocracoke village cannot take field trips, go elsewhere to play in competitive sports or seek entertainment on Hatteras Island.

The tourism industry on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands continues to be interrupted, and inconvenienced. Our tourism businesses there are struggling to put a positive spin on a negative situation. If these conditions were to continue into the spring and summer the impact on the tourism economy of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands will be enormous.

This issue is not only about tourism, nor is it about joy riding or expecting something that no one else in the state receives. It is about providing a safe, efficient travel corridor as is found throughout the state road system that serves millions. On the Outer Banks, much of our public road system glides through the water instead of across black top. This does not make it less of a responsibility of the state and federal government to ensure these corridors can be used.

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

www.outerbankschamber.com





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The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce asks you as elected and appointed officials to fund and support dredging of Hatteras Inlet in order to open up the ferry channel. This request is in addition to our resolution calling for a solution to the Oregon Inlet dredging situation.

Sincerely,

Ali

Ali Breaux, Chairman of the Board
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Karen

Karen S. Brown, president & CEO
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

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