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Tommy R. Burns, II

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April 17, 2024

The Honorable Greg Murphy, MD  
1105 Corporate Dr., Suite C  
Greenville, NC 27858

RE: Support of Federal Funding for Maintenance Dredging of Back Sound to Lookout Bight, Bogue Inlet, and the American Intracoastal Waterway in Carteret County

Dear Congressman Murphy:

I am writing you today in support of Federal funding for the above-mentioned channels either located entirely within or transecting Carteret County. As you know these channels are very important to the County, North Carolina and our Nation. Safe navigation is important to both our commercial and recreational boaters and will be supported by continued maintenance dredging of these three waterways.

The Back Sound to Lookout Bight Channels not only provides passage to one of the safest inlets in North Carolina but also provides access to Cape Lookout National Seashore. The uniqueness and beauty of Shackleford and Core Banks bring visitors from all over the world. Without continued funding of the primary channel serving this asset it may become inaccessible.

Bogue Inlet splits both Carteret and Onslow County and provides access to the ocean as the only marked inlet between Beaufort Inlet to the North and New River Inlet to the South. In addition to serving recreational and commercial boaters it also serves the United States Coast Guard Station Emerald Isle located just inside the inlet. As sands continue to shift this inlet remains a constant challenge to boaters. Continued Federal support of the maintenance of this inlet is critical to public safety.

As you are aware the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway is the backbone of waterborne transportation for both commercial and recreational vessels. Over the last several years in Carteret County we have experienced shoaling that in some areas has prevented safe passage in this channel. Most recently those areas have been adjacent to markers eleven and twelve just West of Morehead City. Your support of funding for maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway in Carteret County is crucial to keeping this area safe and navigable.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of Carteret County and Eastern North Carolina through the continued funding of maintenance dredging in Carteret County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eugene Foxworth", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Eugene Foxworth  
Assistant County Manager

copy: Tommy Burns, Carteret County Manager  
Jimmy Farrington, Chairman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners  
Mark Mansfield, Vice-Chairman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners