

Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY OF HYDE

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April 3, 2024

U.S. Congressman Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Congressman Murphy,

On behalf of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners, we would like to express our support and gratitude for the proposed Community Project Funding Request authorizing projects within the United States Army Corp.'s Wilmington District, specifically that of Rollinson Channel and Silver Lake Harbor, North Carolina.

Funding in the amount of \$7,080,000 to be used to perform dredging projects and maintenance dredging within Rollinson Channel would be critical to support reliable and safe transportation from Hatteras to Ocracoke Island. Also, please note that while the current language refers to Rollinson Channel, the ferry route extends outside of Rollinson and a distinction should be made to support project activities within Rollinson, Sloop Channel, and any area of federal authorization between Hatteras and Ocracoke that supports reliable and safe transportation particularly via the North Carolina Ferry System.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners would recommend that the funding be utilized to make much-needed dredging improvements to this federally authorized channel and that the spoil material that is a byproduct of that dredging be used to nourish our beaches, particularly in our areas of ocean overwash. Funding will be the first step to ensuring this valuable work is completed while permit and agency coordination will also be required to ensure we receive the greatest benefit from these funds.

Secondly, funding in the amount of \$3,370,000 to be used to award a contract for maintenance dredging entering Silver Lake Harbor would be another critical step in supporting reliable and safe transportation from Ocracoke Island to the mainland areas of Swan Quarter and Cedar Island. Please note, that while the current language refers to Silver Lake Harbor, the ferry route currently must be dredged outside of Silver Lake Harbor in Big Foot Slough to maintain safe and reliable transportation with plans to dredge and potentially begin utilizing Nine Foot Slough, a natural channel, in the near future. This funding could be used to again create a more sustainable and resilient route.

Finally, Hyde County would benefit from the inclusion of Far Creek located in Engelhard, North Carolina, and an unincorporated fishing village on Hyde County's mainland. Far Creek is a federally authorized channel with an authorized depth of 12 feet. Hyde County requests that a survey be done and funds be appropriated to dredge Far Creek to a depth as authorized to enable our commercial fishing fleet to continue to use the Far Creek Channel to access the Pamlico Sound and ultimately the Atlantic Ocean.

Congressman Murphy - we sincerely appreciate your request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding and support this request wholeheartedly. Please call on Hyde County and our Manager, Kris Cahoon Noble to assist you with your request in any way. These funds will be much needed in our shared goal of maintaining safe, sustainable, and resilient transportation to Ocracoke Island and other areas of our county. Please see the attached supporting resolution as adopted by our Board of Commissioners simultaneously with this letter of support on April 3, 2024.

Thank you for your great service to the State of North Carolina and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Earl Pugh Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Earl Pugh Jr.
Chairman of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Mann", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Mann
Clerk to the Hyde County Board of Commissioners