

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF HYDE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**RESOLUTION BY THE COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING THE INSTITUTION OF TOLLS ON FERRY SERVICE OPERATIONS TO AND FROM OCRACOCKE ISLAND OR THE INCREASE IN EXISTING TOLLS**

**WHEREAS** , Ocracoke Island, located in Hyde County, is the State's only barrier island with no alternate form of public transportation infrastructure provided to them in return for the payment of State tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Ferry Service is an extension of Ocracoke's road system where no alternative form of roadway exists and should be provided to the residents of Ocracoke just as traditional roadways, including highways and bypasses, and are provided across the state to residents and are funded by the North Carolina State Gasoline Tax; and,

**WHEREAS** , the continuance of a toll-free ferry service is guaranteed to residents in North Carolina by General Statute 136-89.197; and

**WHEREAS** the Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry is an extension of the road infrastructure to connect the coastal communities of Hatteras and Ocracoke; and

**WHEREAS** Hyde County is among the poorest Counties in North Carolina as indicated by their Tier I designation; and

**WHEREAS** placing tolls and or increasing tolls on existing ferry service would create a financial hardship for local residents, and would impede their ability to obtain supplies and other services necessary to maintain their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS** tourism is the leading industry on Ocracoke Island and the addition or increase of tolls, coupled with decreased ferry runs, would threaten the capability of businesses and working families to earn a living; and

**WHEREAS** this loss in revenue to the citizens of Hyde County would also result in loss of revenue to the State of North Carolina, and would negatively impact the economy, the culture , and the overall well-being of entire State; and

**WHEREAS** 6,013 acres of Ocracoke Island's total acreage of 6,429 acres is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and is owned by the federal government; and

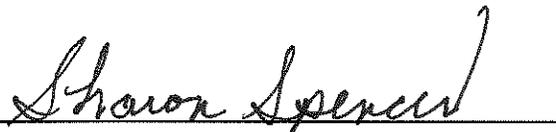
**WHEREAS** this property is valued at \$503,372,209 yet the County of Hyde received less than \$60,000 during the last fiscal year in total as Payment in Lieu of Taxes on all federal property within Hyde County; and

**WHEREAS** the operations of the National Park Service, the United States Coast Guard, the U.S. Agency of Homeland Security and other federal agencies will be impeded by changes to current ferry operations; and

**WHEREAS** we believe there are better ways of financing State government such as by streamlining expenses and maximizing efficiency in order to lower costs without placing undue burden on citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners strongly oppose imposing new tolls on ferry service to or from Ocracoke Island, and do also oppose the increase of tolls on said ferry service, and do oppose any decrease in the level of ferry service to and from Ocracoke Island, North Carolina.

Adopted this the *6<sup>th</sup>* day of *February*, 2012 in Hyde County, North Carolina.

  
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Sharon P. Spencer, Chair  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attested by:

  
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Mazie S. Smith, Clerk to the Board  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners