

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We write to you on behalf of the residents, visitors, and small business owners of Dare County, North Carolina about an urgent matter.

In November 2011, Hurricane Sandy extensively damaged and disrupted NC Highway 12, the only transportation route on Hatteras Island. After Sandy, the Dare County Board of Commissioners charted a course of action to protect its transportation lifeline for the safety, welfare, and vitality of Hatteras Island visitors and residents.

In keeping this commitment, the Dare County Board of Commissioners has made a significant investment by hiring engineers to develop and execute a Beach Nourishment Project for the County in the Buxton Village area. The purpose of this project will be to protect and maintain the structural integrity of NC Highway 12 during and after storms.

Our understanding is that Dare County has the necessary funding to proceed with the permitting, engineering, design and construction of a re-nourishment project. The County would like to present a feasibility study as well as its ideas on nourishment to the Department of Interior. These county leaders seek to engage in meaningful dialogue with those at the Department best suited to address this pressing matter. We ask that Dare County be granted an audience with your staff as soon possible given the urgency of conditions on Hatteras Island.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a timely response as the residents in Dare County have little time to protect themselves from the losses and damages from upcoming storms.

Sincerely,


Kay Hagan
Senator


Richard Burr
Senator


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress