

**A RESOLUTION SEEKING THE RESTORATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE
MAINTENANCE OF THE WATERWAYS AND CHANNELS OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, those who live near, work on and love the beaches and navigable waters of North Carolina's coast appreciate the value of public access to these resources; and

WHEREAS, safe use of the navigable waters in the coastal region is of utmost importance to the citizens of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, commercial and sport fishing have been important to the coastal economy and that of the entire state for many years; and

WHEREAS, boat building has been a traditional industry in Dare County and now also has become a major industry in North Carolina, creating thousands of jobs, with 84% of those boat builders being located in the state's coastal region due to the tradition of easy access to navigable waters; and

WHEREAS, boat sales in North Carolina have now exceeded \$450 million annually, generating significant tax revenues and thousands of additional jobs at over 3,000 boating-related businesses in the state; and

WHEREAS, federal funding has virtually disappeared for maintaining the authorized safe depths of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the many shallow draft inlets connecting inland waters to the Atlantic Ocean, causing serious dangers to our citizens, the thousands of boaters who visit our state and our critical coastal economy; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence since the US Coast Guard has recently advised that it can no longer maintain buoys in many of the undredged shallow draft inlets and so they must be removed, making the inlets unsafe for navigation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that we respectfully ask Governor Mike Easley, Senator Elizabeth Dole, Senator Richard Burr, Congressman Mike McIntyre and Congressman Walter Jones to directly contact and strongly urge President George W. Bush, Director of The White House Office of Management and Budget Joshua B. Bolten, Acting Asst. Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley and US Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock to take the action needed to immediately restore the funding necessary to maintain the authorized depths for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the numerous

Congressionally-authorized shallow draft navigation projects in North Carolina reminding them that failure to do so is unacceptable and is a direct threat to the well-being of coastal North Carolina 's people and its economy.