

CAROLINA SPORTING GOODS COMPANY

Pat Geer, Mgr.

Everything for the Sportsman

Sanford, N. C.

April 18, 1963

An Open Letter to the Citizens of the State of North Carolina:

DON'T GIVE AWAY OUR OUTER BANKS

In my opinion the time has come when the people of our State should be alerted to a situation now developing within our borders which merits our fullest and most serious attention, namely, the impending surrender of our Outer Banks to the Federal Government. If, as it appears, this proposal was conceived in politics and does not necessarily reflect the judgment of the electorate then let us hear from those who oppose this encroachment on our private rights and liberties. There may be advantages to be had from Federal acquisition but do they outweigh the disadvantages? The creation of an Outer Banks Advisory Group to study Outer Banks erosion and make recommendations for its stabilization was certainly a most wise and overdue step on the part of our State officials. For this they are to be commended, but there are those who feel that the recommendations of this Commission are deliberately creating the feeling that the whole project will be too costly for the state to undertake; therefore, we must invite Federal participation, and to secure this we must deed most, if not all, of our Outer Banks over to an agency of the Federal Government. In support of this statement, I submit that an early report of this Commission stated that a comprehensive erosion control program would entail the expenditure of some \$8,000,000 of which the Federal Government would contribute three fourths provided the State would be responsible for the remaining fourth. Of that fourth, it was suggested the Counties directly concerned would contribute 10%. While I feel that this was an extremely high figure to accomplish the work, I believe the State could afford the two million dollar expenditure called for in this report and furthermore should be able to do so without calling on the individual Counties, some of which are hard pressed to keep up with current obligations, For example, over one-half of Carteret County is now owned by the Federal Government who pays the county no taxes.

The Commission's first report presented a plan which would obviate the necessity of Federal ownership but now their latest report is concluded by the statement, supported by a letter from the State Parks Agency, that our State Government can in no way furnish the \$8,000,000 for the project; so the Advisory Group now suggests that we invite complete Federal Ownership in order to qualify for the funds required. Whatever happened to their first proposal which would have left ownership of the Banks in our hands?

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

OFFICE

SECTION

UNIT

DATE

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11/17/68
 Mr. Tolson
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Bishop
 Mr. Casper
 Mr. Callahan
 Mr. Conrad
 Mr. Felt
 Mr. Gale
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. Tavel
 Mr. Trotter
 Mr. Tele. Room
 Miss Holmes
 Miss Gandy

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I repeat, we are being led to believe that Federal ownership is the only answer.

The fact must be faced that outer banks stabilization has no overnight answer and Federal ownership provides no magic, overnight solution. The eventual stabilization will require several years of work no matter in whose hands ownership rests. I hope we can stand up when this job is done and proudly say, "This we did ourselves", without crying on Uncle Sam's shoulder. Make no mistake, Uncle Sam doesn't give his money away without obligations on the receiver's part. We see these costly obligations illustrated every day in our news reports as customs and individual rights are being done away with by the stroke of a pen in Washington.

Of particular interest to outer banks residents and sportsmen the state over should be the enclosed news item concerning the proclamation recently issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service prohibiting hunting within a specified distance of the recently acquired Mackays Island Refuge in Currituck County. This power of proclamation also covers fishing, commercial and sport, as well as hunting and we can most certainly expect to be deprived of a good many of our hunting and fishing privileges along the coast if these lands become federal property.

Completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel early next year will, within a few short years, channel a tremendous influx of traffic to the eastern part of our state. With a little vision and foresight on our part, we now can promote our outer banks into a vacationers' paradise. The Federal Government envisions this now--why don't we. The one and only benefit to be derived from Federal ownership is Federal funds while on the other hand we CAN accomplish this stabilization ourselves and in a few short years the money will be forgotten but the land and it's pleasures will remain for us to enjoy and use in the manner in which we see fit, not the manner in which some governmental agency dictates.

DON'T GIVE OUR OUTER BANKS AWAY.

Respectfully,



R. P. (Pat) Geer
Sanford, N.C.

RPG/nc

Enclosure

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April 11, 1904
Dear Sir

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Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
[Name]

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