

Statement

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This bill includes within the park boundaries the additional 180 acres which has recently been acquired by the State of North Carolina through the donation by Mr. Charles Reeves. The bill also deletes the requirement that all property on Core Banks be acquired by the State of North Carolina by giving authority to the Secretary of Interior to acquire lands on Core Banks by purchase, donation, or exchange.

THIS provision would allow the Department of Interior with the help of the State of North Carolina to move ahead immediately to acquire any remaining properties on Core Banks, especially the Core Banks Gun Club.

Perhaps the most important provision of the bill is that it authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Interior to declare National Seashore status at Cape Lookout at such time as an efficiently administrable unit is vested in the United States Government.

In his letter to Secretary Morton on May 17, Governor Holshouser stated, "It is my belief that with the additional 180 acres in the Cape area you should announce (the establishment of) Cape Lookout National Seashore immediately after the passage of the attached legislation. Core Banks Gun Club can be acquired in the near future and is not necessary to a manageable park area."

With the establishment of Cape Lookout National Seashore, Core Banks and Shackleford Banks will provide one of the most unique undeveloped recreation areas in the entire nation.

Countless individuals in the State of North Carolina and staff members of the Department of Interior have worked long and hard to see Cape Lookout National Seashore become a reality. We have come today to ask that the House bill you are considering be given a favorable report so that it may become law at the earliest possible date.