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## **FREEDOM IS AT RISK ON THE OUTER BANKS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

As the United States of America prepares to celebrate its birthday, freedom continues to be at risk in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> when patriotic Americans will reflect upon freedom, the residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area will continue to be denied public access to key portions of the most popular area beaches because of a federal court-ordered consent decree.

The court order is the result of three environmental groups filing a damaging and expensive lawsuit against the National Park Service, which manages the recreational area. This lawsuit has had a devastating effect on the local, tourism-based economy.

“Our people have always been faithful stewards of the environment,” said Warren Judge, the elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Dare County, North Carolina where most of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area is located.

“Long before a few environmentalists targeted our area,” Judge added, “the residents and visitors of Hatteras Island worked diligently with the National Park Service to protect wildlife based on scientific principles and sound management practices. The environmentalists are trying to fix something that wasn’t broken.”

Board of Commissioners, Vice-Chairman, Allen Burrus reflected, “Our people, who were the first to care about the environment, are now being ruined because of the consent decree.” He added, “We need to take proper care of the birds, but we also have to do what is right for people. Children should not see their parents go bankrupt because of some birds that are not even endangered.”

Jack Shea, another Dare County Commissioner explained, “Our Board is unified in bi-partisan support of open and accessible beaches. This is not a political issue.” He emphasized, “This is a matter of survival for our businesses and families. That is why our board has unanimously taken a strong stand in favor of beach access.”

The campaign to preserve access to America’s beaches is sponsored by the Dare County Board of Commissioners in partnership with the Dare County Tourism Board. Learn what you can do to help at [www.PreserveBeachAccess.org](http://www.PreserveBeachAccess.org). View a sample letter you can send to Congress in support of House of Representatives bill, H.R. 718; and see instructions for adding a link on your business website to beach access campaign.