



North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate Chamber  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

December 13, 2016

Mayor Howard Braxton  
Town Commissioners Morton Blanchard, Julian Bone, Tom Eggleston, Steven George Smith, and  
Linda Stipe  
Town Manager Michael Rose  
Town of Topsail Beach  
820 South Anderson Boulevard  
Topsail Beach, NC 28445

Dear Mayor Braxton, Commissioners, and Town Manager Rose,

Please accept the following statement as an official comment for your regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed changes being considered to the Town's Dune Ordinance. We hereby request that this statement is read, in its entirety, into the record and that a hardcopy be provided to those listed above.

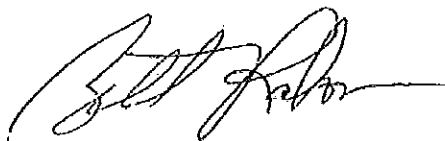
While the Town has been discussing the issue of development versus dune protection measures at the south end of the Topsail Island for quite some time, it is our understanding that the Commission is considering a final vote on an amended ordinance at this evening's meeting.

The proposed creation of an "Oceanfront Protective Dune System Overlay District" represents a weakening of the Town's current policy of wholesale preservation of the dynamic dune system adjacent to New Topsail Inlet. The protection from dynamic coastal processes afforded by these dunes benefits the entire southern portion of the island – far beyond the platted lots on which they sit.

Understand that we are not opposed to oceanfront development. In fact, we have proudly sponsored numerous provisions in multiple bills that have reformed coastal management policies statewide to expand development opportunities while ensuring continued preservation of our oceanfront beaches. However, the Town's proposed ordinance change, in an effort to expand development opportunities, has the potential to degrade protections to the dune system – many times the last line of defense against natural hazards such as storm surge.

We urge you to not adopt the proposed ordinance or, at the very least, table the vote. We will be back in session in less than a month and stand ready to work with Town leaders and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for new development while ensuring dune protection is not compromised.

With Regards,



Bill Rabon  
Senate District 8 (Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender)



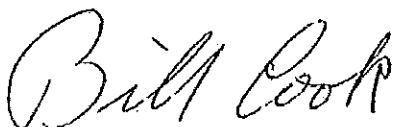
Michael V. Lee  
Senate District 9 (New Hanover)



Harry Brown  
Senate District 6 (Jones, Onslow)



Norman Sanderson  
Senate District 2 (Carteret, Craven, Pamlico)



Bill Cook  
Senate District 1 (Beaufort, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans)