

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2014

Mr. Patrick Kenney  
Superintendent  
Cape Lookout National Seashore  
U.S. National Park Service  
131 Charles Street  
Harkers Island, NC 28531

Colonel Steven A. Baker  
Commander  
Wilmington Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28043

Superintendent Kenney / Colonel Baker:

I write to express serious concern with the draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Morehead City Harbor Project.

It is my understanding that the National Park Service (NPS) requested the language in the draft DMMP that would authorize placing sand dredged from Morehead City Harbor on Shackelford Banks' coastline. I also understand that this is a departure from NPS's long-standing position of not wanting sand to renourish Shackelford Banks.

My concerns with giving NPS the authority to decide whether to accept dredged materials are three-fold.

- I. Diverting sand to Shackelford could leave communities like Atlantic Beach vulnerable to flooding and storm damage. Whereas Shackelford Banks is managed as a wilderness area and thus devoid of development, properties on Atlantic Beach are valued at \$1.7 billion. In addition, Atlantic Beach is a tourist destination. Reducing funding to maintain these beaches could reduce tourism and harm the area's economy.
- II. Depositing sand in both locations would require additional funding. In this budget environment, it is a continuous challenge to maintain sufficient funding for existing projects in this area and across the state. Securing the additional resources needed to place sand on Shackelford Banks could result in budget cuts to these other Corps projects across my state.
- III. Lastly, the proposal does not specify the variables NPS must use to determine whether to accept the sand. Given the aforementioned consequences of diverting

beach quality sand to Shackelford, it is unacceptable for the draft DMPP to not define the conditions under which the NPS would accept sand to renourish Shackelford Banks.

It is for these reasons that I cannot support the draft DMMP. I urge the National Park Service to withdraw the request for authority to accept sand on Shackelford Banks and I ask the Corps to remove this authority from the proposed DMMP.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay R. Hagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senator