



### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF JENNETTE'S PIER DIRECTOR POSITION

**WHEREAS**, Jennette's Pier is a unique, public, educational and research fishing pier located in Nags Head in Dare County, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Jennette's Pier is a major attraction on North Carolina's Outer Banks that has experienced continued growth with over 185,743 visitors during 2016 and over 750,000 visitors who depend upon the Pier for beach access; and

**WHEREAS**, Jennette's Pier provides unique educational opportunities, which during 2016 attracted 1,339 people and 7,616 North Carolina students; and

**WHEREAS**, essential research is conducted by Jennette's Pier on alternative power, water reclaiming techniques, and stormwater retention, for which the Pier has received nationwide acclaim; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Nags Head contributed \$300,000 and Dare County contributed \$700,000 to the initial purchase, in addition to working closely with the State of North Carolina and the NC Aquariums for several years to ensure the Pier's future and continued success; and

**WHEREAS**, Jennette's Pier contributes significantly to the local economy and to the businesses in Dare County; and

**WHEREAS**, Jennette's Pier receives no State appropriations for its operation, and operates totally off the revenue it generates along with support from the Aquarium Society; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued success and operation of Jennette's Pier is vitally dependent upon having an on-site director at the facility to closely manage, monitor and guide the diverse range of programs and services offered by this multifaceted facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 257 Committee Report on Base Budget, Section H.82, Aquariums Management, would eliminate the director position at Jennette's Pier, which will jeopardize the continued success of this educational and research facility that provides a vital service to the people of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into on June 7, 2005 among the following agencies, departments, and organizations: The North Carolina Aquarium Society, The North Carolina Aquariums, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, The Town of Nags Head, and the County of Dare to provide advice, assistance and support in guiding the operations of the facility; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Nags Head strongly opposes the lack of transparency in eliminating the director's position at Jennette's Pier by simply noting it through approval of a Senate committee report.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Nags Head opposes Section H.82 of the Committee Report on Base Budget, and seeks its complete and entire removal from Senate Bill 257.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017.

  
Robert C. Edwards, Mayor  
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

  
Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

