



**Resolution opposing any toll ferry service
between Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Ferry System is the second largest service in the United States and operates as an extension of the State's highway system in providing the only vehicular access between Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands; and

WHEREAS, 328,907 vehicles carried 857,850 passengers across Hatteras Inlet during calendar year 2010 with 55.6% of vehicles using the ferry coming from outside of the State of North Carolina, which represents the highest percentage of tourism-related ferry travel in the entire North Carolina system; and

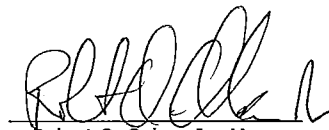
WHEREAS, people depend on the ferry between Hatteras and Ocracoke as the only means of access to employment opportunities, health care and hospitals, emergency evacuation routes and for the transportation infrastructure needed to sustain tourism-related travel in the region; and

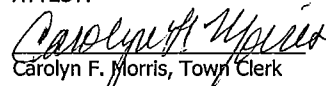
WHEREAS, North Carolina is considering imposing a ten (10) dollar one-way toll for ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke as a revenue generating option that represents a disruptive change from the free service traditionally provided for the residents and visitors who must depend on the ferry as their only means of access; and

WHEREAS, imposition of any toll would create an undue hardship on the workforce that relies on the ferry for access to employment opportunities and would discourage tourism travel jeopardizing the significant revenue it generates for local communities and the State of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Nags Head Board of Commissioners opposes the establishment of any toll on the heretofore free ferry service that provides vital access between Hatteras and Ocracoke and urges the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the State Legislature and the Governor to continue maintaining this service without a burdensome and economically damaging toll as a matter of public safety and necessity.

This the 1st day of June, 2011.


Robert O. Oakes, Jr., Mayor
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

