



RESOLUTION OF THE ALBEMARLE COMMISSION BOARD OF DELEGATES SUPPORTING RELIABLE COASTAL ACCESS AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S FERRY AND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates in regular session duly assembled does Resolve as follows:

CAMDEN

CHOWAN

CURRITUCK

DARE

GATES

HYDE

PASQUOTANK

PERQUIMANS

TYRRELL

WASHINGTON

COLUMBIA

CRESWELL

DUCK

EDENTON

ELIZABETH CITY

GATESVILLE

HERTFORD

KILL DEVIL HILLS

KITTY HAWK

MANTEO

NAGS HEAD

PLYMOUTH

ROPER

SOUTHERN SHORES

WINFALL

WHEREAS, the Albemarle Commission serves as the Council of Governments for a ten-county region in northeastern North Carolina, encompassing both coastal and inland communities whose economies, safety, and connectivity are closely linked to the state's transportation and ferry infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Ferry Division operates the second-largest state-run ferry system in the United States, providing vital transportation links that connect residents, workers, and visitors across the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds; and

WHEREAS, the ferry system supports local economies by facilitating commerce, sustaining tourism, and ensuring access to essential goods and services - including for isolated and island communities such as Ocracoke, Knotts Island, and others within the Albemarle Region; and

WHEREAS, these ferry routes are essential not only to the economic stability of local businesses but also to regional emergency management, education, and healthcare access; and

WHEREAS, despite the ferry system's importance, years of underfunding and delayed state budgets have limited the NCDOT Ferry Division's ability to modernize vessels, maintain service reliability, and keep pace with rising operational and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, reliable ferry and coastal transportation are further dependent upon consistent dredging operations managed in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal partners to ensure safe and navigable channels; and

WHEREAS, ferry and coastal access directly contribute to the vitality of the Albemarle Region's tourism industry, which generates significant visitor spending and tax revenue that benefits local economies throughout northeastern North Carolina; and

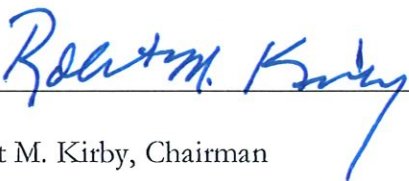
WHEREAS, the Albemarle Commission recognizes that sustained investment in ferry and coastal transportation systems is critical to economic development, workforce mobility, regional resilience, and quality of life for the citizens we serve;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albemarle Commission urges the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize timely passage of a comprehensive state budget that includes adequate and sustainable funding for the NCDOT Ferry Division, coastal dredging, and related transportation infrastructure essential to the Albemarle Region and North Carolina's coastal economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Albemarle Commission calls upon state and federal agencies to collaborate on long-term strategies ensuring reliable, resilient, and equitable access to all communities reliant on ferry and waterway transportation; and

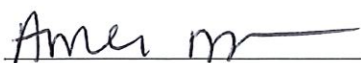
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to all members of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Office of the Governor of North Carolina, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Ferry Division, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Adopted this 10 day of October, 2025 by the Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates.



Robert M. Kirby, Chairman

Attest:



Amber Morse, Clerk to the Board