

Re: Funding for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund (HB 56, Section 6)

Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am contacting you to urge you to vote to fund the Storm Damage Mitigation Fund that was authorized in the 2017 legislature (HB 56, Section 6). I own a cottage/live in/always vacation in Avon. [ Add something personal here. Let them know you are a voting constituent in their district. Form letters seem to be ignored, but Senator Cook has told us that letters which are clearly personal always get their attention.]

Local funding alone cannot address all of the North Carolina beaches where beach and dune erosion is critical. Without a wide beach and stable dunes, homes, businesses and public infrastructure along our beaches are totally unprotected from hurricanes, nor'easters and other types of storms. Costs to repair and replace the public and private properties and infrastructure after a major storm will far outweigh the cost of mitigating the potential storm damage now.

In Avon, the beach and dunes have undergone significant retreat in the last few years and now a mile-long stretch is completely devoid of dunes and vegetation, leaving it virtually unprotected from storm damage. Homes are in jeopardy, local streets and infrastructure are threatened and Highway 12 has experienced flooding for days from ocean overwash. County resources alone are insufficient to address our problem in Avon and similar challenges along other Outer Banks beaches. State funds are critically needed to support the strong local investments that contribute so heavily to the economies of both Dare County and the State.

I urge you to work with your fellow legislators to fund the Storm Damage Mitigation Fund. With your help, we can protect not only my beach in Avon but also beaches throughout North Carolina's coastal communities.

Sincerely,

Name, address, phone number and email address.