

June 6, 2026

The Honorable Josh Stein,
Governor
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Stein:

We, the undersigned, write to ask for your leadership in securing the necessary state and federal funding to build the Mid-Currituck Bridge, and to do so expeditiously. On April 14, 2026, the Albemarle Regional Planning Organization (ARPO), a coalition of 10 counties in Northeastern North Carolina, reaffirmed their support for maintaining the Mid-Currituck Bridge as a transportation priority for the region. ARPO first prioritized this project in 2014 and has listed it as a top priority ever since. Since 2016, NCDOT has expended over \$60 million in planning, engineering, permitting, acquiring right of ways, and litigation in preparation for construction.

As residents and voters, we can tell you that this bridge is critical to the safety and economic development of the Northern Outer Banks. Summer traffic burdens on our towns have reached dire proportions. Three days each week, visitors transiting our towns enroute to Corolla and other Currituck County ocean communities -- an estimated 600,000 over the season, according to the Tourism Board -- on a single two-lane access road (NC12) spend two or more hours barely moving.

The bottleneck impairs community safety. EMS trucks are delayed in traffic so snarled they have difficulty finding ways through. Trucks are late to fires. In the event of a summer hurricane or wildfire, it would take many days to evacuate the northern beaches. The lessons of Hurricane Katrina are apt.

As year-round residents and homeowners, we are also grievously affected in our daily lives. We cannot move north or south during these gridlock periods. Employees from the mainland spend two or three hours trying to get to their jobs in the Corolla area. Visitors desperate to avoid the gridlock swarm neighborhood roads in Southern Shores, preventing residents from moving out of their own driveways, depositing trash, and causing air pollution.

A Mid-Currituck Bridge between Aydlett and Corolla, which has been studied for years, is now acutely needed. Yet the delays in planning, the legal challenges, and other priorities have meant that the estimated costs have gone up, by some accounts, to \$1.2 billion. A significant portion of the cost can be borne by users, under either the state turnpike authority or a public-private partnership. Leveraging expected toll contributions can make a major contribution to the capital costs, especially if assumptions about tolling rates are seriously re-examined. But state and federal funding will be needed. Federal funding is appropriate because many, many of the visitors stuck in these epic jams are from other states to our north, such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and New York.

The Commissioners of Dare and Currituck County, and the town councils of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, and Nags Head, recently adopted resolutions affirming strong support for the Mid-Currituck Bridge, showing its breadth of local support.

We ask that you speak out on the importance of the bridge, its status as a state priority, and help North Carolina obtain federal grant funding to help it become a reality. Our town's future depends on it.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Josh Stein,
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