



NORTH CAROLINA  
*Environmental Quality*

JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

March 12, 2026

Hon. David Rouzer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2333 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Funding Request for Shoreline Restoration Project at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Dear Representative Rouzer:

Please accept this letter in support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' (DNCR) funding request to complete a system of wave attenuators at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site.

The installation of this living shoreline is a state-supported project that makes both the historic site itself and the community it serves more resilient in the face of future natural disasters, sea level rise, and wave energy from passing ships while also protecting and enhancing natural habitat, strengthening biodiversity, providing outdoor recreation and education opportunities on public lands, and safeguarding valuable historic resources. Through the installation of the wave attenuator units, this project will significantly reduce shoreline erosion, attenuate wave action, and mitigate flooding.

At the time of this writing, 3,425 linear feet of the shoreline have been completed, and an additional 1,500 linear feet will complete the shoreline. DNCR reports that:

- this project has proven its efficacy and withstood the tidal forces of Hurricanes Florence, Dorian, and Isais, as well as Tropical Storm Michael. In each of these instances, the shoreline was protected even throughout flooding conditions;
- where Reefmakers have been installed, sediment accretion and reestablishment of native grasses have been observed; and
- oysters are clustering on the units themselves, which is improving the water quality in the area.

The State Resilience Office, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, supports this application as it advances our mutual goals of protecting people and our environment



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

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from the impacts of extreme storms and other natural hazards such as sea level rise. The State of North Carolina has already invested significantly in this project (approximately \$1.9 million of state funding) and this funding request will complete the project. Without this important nature-based infrastructure investment, Brunswick Town Fort Anderson will sustain permanent damage and will be unable to serve as a community education hub. Additionally, important coastal habitat will continue to suffer while erosion damages the water quality of the Cape Fear River and ocean.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 741-8762 or email me at [marlena.byrne@deq.nc.gov](mailto:marlena.byrne@deq.nc.gov). Thank you so much for considering this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marlena Byrne  
Acting Chief Resilience Officer



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

Dear Representative Rouzer:

Please accept this letter in support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' (NC-DNCR) funding request to complete the installation of a system of wave attenuators at Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site.

The University of North Carolina Wilmington's Coastal & Estuarine Studies Laboratory has been a partner on this project since 2017. Through long-term environmental monitoring and data collection, UNCW has been able to document the following benefits:

- An average 50% reduction in significant wave height and wave energy on the landward side of the installed wave attenuators, protecting the shoreline from erosion and reducing storm surge impacts.
- Sediment accumulation and shoreline growth of approximately one meter in areas behind the structures, helping reverse decades of shoreline loss.
- Restoration of marsh areas supporting native cordgrass, a foundational plant species that stabilizes sediment and provides food and habitat, along with enhanced biodiversity for crabs, fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- Improved water quality due to oyster colonization.

At this time, almost 3,500 linear feet of the project have been completed, and an additional 1,500 linear feet will complete it. This project has proven its efficacy and withstood daily tidal currents, Cape Fear River discharge, and storm surge events of Hurricanes Florence, Dorian, Isais, and Tropical Storm Michael. Additionally, it has weathered a multitude of high-water events related to inland storms, Nor'easters, and sunny day flooding. In each of these instances, the shoreline was protected even throughout flood conditions.

UNCW's Coastal & Estuarine Studies Lab supports this application as it advances our mutual goals to help storm-impacted communities rebuild smarter and stronger in the face of natural disasters. Moreover, this project provides hands-on job training to undergraduate and graduate students in STEM fields, who are responsible for data collection. Between volunteers, classes, and paid student technicians, over one hundred professionals in-training have contributed to the initiative.

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Without this important nature-based infrastructure investment, Brunswick Town Fort Anderson will likely sustain permanent damage along the unprotected segments of shoreline. This would impact the site's mission as a historic site and its service as a hub for community education. Additionally, important coastal habitats will continue to be lost due to shoreline erosion.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [eulied@uncw.edu](mailto:eulied@uncw.edu).

Thank you so much for considering this project.

Sincerely,

Devon O. Eulie, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Coastal & Estuarine Studies Lab  
Department of Environmental Sciences  
Center for Marine Sciences  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
Office: DH 2038D Office Phone: 910-962-3230

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Josh Stein, Governor  
Pamela B. Cashwell, Secretary

March XX, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer  
2333 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

Please accept this letter of support for the Brunswick Town Fort Anderson (BTFA) Shoreline Restoration Project submitted by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. We greatly appreciate your past support for this project and your help securing \$2.5 million in funding in 2023. With the additional requested funds, BTFA would install the final 1,500 linear feet of wave attenuators to protect its shoreline from further erosion.

Located along the Cape Fear River, BTFA has lost more than 12 acres in the last 81 years due to coastal erosion. This living shoreline, which has been installed piecemeal since 2017, has documented success in mitigating shoreline erosion through wave attenuation and shoreline accretion. By protecting the shoreline from tidal forces, this project has also protected wildlife, facilitated the growth of natural habitat and protected the historical resources still buried throughout the grounds of the historic site. Ultimately, the Shoreline Restoration Project makes BTFA more resilient from natural disasters and supports the community through sustained education, recreation and tourism. It is a preventive investment that will save taxpayer dollars from future costs resulting from storm damage.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask your careful consideration of our \$5.8 million community project funding request.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 919-526-4615 or at [maggie.thompson@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:maggie.thompson@dncr.nc.gov). You may also contact [kimberly.kandros@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:kimberly.kandros@dncr.nc.gov) for information. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1589801DB7244B5...  
Maggie Thompson

Chief Deputy Secretary