



March 18, 2024

The Honorable David Rouzer
United States House of Representative
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

On behalf of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina, I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers receiving funding slated for maintenance dredging of the Lockwood Folly Inlet. The inlet is one of five federally authorized shallow draft inlets in North Carolina, and unimpeded travel is pivotal to those who make their living from commercial fishing and the many recreational boaters in the area.

The Town has committed millions of dollars over the last fifteen years to keep the inlet navigable because resources were not included in federal budgets. In FY 2022, Congress appropriated \$1,050,000 to the Corps to dredge the inlet, the first time federal funds were provided for Lockwood Folly maintenance dredging in many years. Because federal funding was in place, the Corps could easily schedule the inlet around dredge plant availability, and depths were kept at navigable levels. We again request your support for funding to keep Lockwood Folly inlet navigable and safe.

The estimated cost of keeping the inlet in working order is approximately \$1.5 million annually, which would coincide with the quarterly maintenance program. The Town would like to request this funding for the Corps in the operation and maintenance budget.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to our community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



J. Alan Holden
Mayor, Town of Holden Beach