



A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TOLLS ON FERRY SERVICE OPERATIONS OF THE BAYVIEW-AURORA FERRY ROUTE

WHEREAS, House Bill 259, Short title 2023 State Appropriations Act, calls for tolling all ferry routes in North Carolina including the Bayview-Aurora Ferry Route; and

WHEREAS, the Bayview Ferry Terminal and the Aurora Ferry Terminal are in Beaufort County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County is a rural county, bisected by the Pamlico River with the only bridges crossing the Pamlico River at the most western end of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Bayview-Aurora Ferry route provides basic transportation access for residents and visitors in the eastern part of the County and without it would require a 59-mile land detour to reach the other side of the Pamlico River; and

WHEREAS, ferries are an integral part of the road systems in Eastern NC and until bridges can be built, ferries are critical to basic transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, a ferry is an extension of the highway system and such proposed addition of ferry tolls where there is none at present will constitute an unfair taxation burden upon residents of areas served by ferry service; and

WHEREAS, due to rural nature of the area, residents of Beaufort County must drive longer distances to obtain basic needs such as employment, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, because of driving longer distances, residents of Beaufort County pay more in fuel taxes, per capita, than most North Carolinians, thus funding the highway system at a greater per capita amount; and

WHEREAS, in Beaufort County, the Bayview-Aurora Ferry that crosses the Pamlico River, is extremely important to the local economy, providing transportation to approximately 10% of the employees of the County's largest private employer, Nutrien; and

WHEREAS, there have been past attempts to put tourism-based fee policies into place that are extremely detrimental to regional workforce, educational, medical access, and industry needs; and

WHEREAS, imposition of tolls would create a significant hardship on residents of Beaufort County who use the ferry for basic transportation needs.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes tolls on ferry service between Bayview and Aurora, and on other ferry routes where there are no tolls at present and urges the legislature to remove Section 41.11C from House Bill 259 that authorizes tolling on all ferry routes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Beaufort County Board of Commissioners join other coastal communities to urge the legislature to adequately fund the ferry system and to oppose increases on the tolls currently existing on other ferry services.

Adopted this the 27th day of July 2023.



Frankie Waters, Chairman
Beaufort County Board of Commissioners



Kathleen Mosher
Clerk to the Board

