

REMARKS BY MAYOR RAYMOND STURZA

HERBERT C BONNER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT HEARING

MANTEO, N.C. JULY 6, 2010

GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS RAY STURZA AND I AM THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS NORTH CAROLINA, MY ADDRESS IS 601 WEST SOTHEL ST. IN KILL DEVIL HILLS. I WANT TO START BY THANKING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ITS STEADFAST DETERMINATION TO SEE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE *HERBERT C. BONNER BRIDGE* IS ONE DAY A REALITY. I FEAR YOUR STEADFAST DETERMINATION HAS NOT SEEN ITS FINAL TEST, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TONIGHT TO REDEDICATE YOURSELVES TO SEE THIS ESSENTIAL LINK TO AND FROM HATTERAS ISLAND TO ITS COMPLETION.

SOME OF THOSE GATHERED HERE MAY WONDER WHY THE MAYOR OF KILL DEVIL HILLS SHOULD CONCERN HIMSELF ABOUT THE BONNER BRIDGE? TO THAT I SAY; EVERY MAYOR IN EVERY TOWN IN NORTH CAROLINA SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BONNER BRIDGE. YES I SHARE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY AND THE WELFARE OF EVERYONE WHO DEPENDS ON THAT BRIDGE FOR ACCESS TO THEIR HOME. AND I SHARE THE NEED, AS DO MY FELLOW CITIZENS EVERYWHERE ELSE IN DARE COUNTY, FOR ACCESS TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OF OUR NATIONAL SEASHORE..SO YES, I AM CONCERNED.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY I AM CONCERNED FOR MY COUNTRY. I HAVE WATCHED WITH COMPLETE AND UTTER DISBELIEF AS FEDERAL AGENCIES AND THIRD PARTY LITIGATION-ORIENTED INTEREST GROUPS HAVE CRIPPLED THE PERMIT PROCESS WITH ENDLESS STUDIES AND RE-STUDIES. AND ALL THE WHILE, COSTS HAVE RISEN AND THE DAY WE ALL DREAD, WHEN THE EXISTING BRIDGE BECOMES TOO DANGEROUS TO PASS, GROWS EVER CLOSER. THE NEED TO REPLACE THE HERBERT C. BONNER BRIDGE IS NOT ROOTED ON SOME IDEOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL GAME BOARD . WE ARE NOT PLAYING WITH "MONOPOLY" MONEY HERE TONIGHT, WE HAVE THE SAFETY AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT STAKE TONIGHT!

I WILL CONCLUDE BY SIMPLY STATING WHAT SO MANY OF US HAVE KNOWN FOR SO LONG...LETS GET ON WITH IT. TO PARAPHRASE OUR PRESIDENT'S FRUSTRATION WITH THE SITUATION IN THE GULF I SAY...JUST BUILD THE DAMN BRIDGE.

THANK YOU.