

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 494

Sponsors: Representatives Justice, McComas, Stiller, Wright (Primary Sponsors); B. Allen, Blackwood, Brown, Carney, Cleveland, Current, Daughtridge, Dickson, Faison, Glazier, Grady, Harrell, Harrison, Hill, Hunter, Martin, Nye, Owens, Preston, Tolson, Tucker, Underhill, Wainwright, Warren, and Williams.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 7, 2005

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE ADEQUATE
2 FUNDS TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE
3 MAINTENANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S SHALLOW DRAFT NAVIGATION
4 CHANNELS.

5 Whereas, the United States Congress has authorized a network of shallow
6 draft navigation channels in North Carolina after evaluation of their economic benefits,
7 including the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, connections from the Atlantic Intracoastal
8 Waterway through coastal inlets to the ocean, and channels in the sounds; and

9 Whereas, it is the responsibility of the United States Army Corps of
10 Engineers to maintain these shallow draft navigation channels in conditions suitable for
11 safe navigation by periodically dredging out accumulated sediments from the channels;
12 and

13 Whereas, there are certain nonfederal responsibilities involved in shallow
14 draft navigation channel maintenance, particularly providing spoil disposal areas for
15 dredged material, which responsibilities have been reliably carried out by North
16 Carolina State government and by local governments; and

17 Whereas, President George W. Bush's budget for fiscal year 2005 eliminated
18 maintenance funds for the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the shallow draft
19 navigation channels, and the recently presented budget for fiscal year 2006 also
20 eliminated these projects; and

21 Whereas, North Carolina's shallow draft navigation channels are critically
22 important for industrial barge traffic, ferries, commercial fishermen, and recreational
23 boaters; and

24 Whereas, the use of North Carolina's shallow draft navigation channels for
25 boating and recreation is a critical element in North Carolina's coastal recreation and

1 tourism industry, which is a key element of the economy in the coastal region of North
2 Carolina; and

3 Whereas, when channels become impassable due to lack of maintenance,
4 there will be an immediate loss of jobs and income as commercial fishermen, charter
5 boats, and barges are not able to use these vital transportation waterways in their
6 businesses; and

7 Whereas, North Carolina's shallow draft navigation channels are essential for
8 safety in that they provide a way to reach harbors of refuge during sudden storms and
9 also allow passage by the United States Coast Guard on search and rescue missions; and

10 Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers uses certain specialized
11 equipment, such as sidecast dredges and split hull hopper dredges, to maintain the
12 shallow draft channels that is not available to the private sector; Now, therefore,
13 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

14 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives urges Congress to appropriate
15 adequate funds to the United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain North
16 Carolina's shallow draft navigation channels in usable and safe conditions.

17 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this
18 resolution to each member of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

19 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.