



**For Immediate Release**

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## **N.C. House Should Reject Deal on Terminal Groins**

OCEAN – The floor isn't likely to move under their feet when they cast their votes, but members of the N.C. House of Representatives should nonetheless understand that a compromise to allow jetty like walls to be built on the state's beaches rests on shifting, suspect terrain.

The deal approved by a conference committee will allow four of these so-called terminal groins at inlets between the state's barrier islands. The N.C. General Assembly is likely to vote on the compromise before its expected adjournment next week.

House members should remember that the version of the groin bill that they passed just a few weeks ago allowed just three structures, noted Todd Miller, the executive director of the N.C. Coastal Federation. Two were envisioned when the bill was first being fashioned in the House, he said.

"It's gone from two, to three, to now four in just a few weeks and the first pile of rocks has yet to hit the beach," Miller said. "Once you start down this road there is no turning back. The history of these structures wherever they are allowed is that one groin or jetty begets another, and another, and another."

Unless they are willing to vote in the future for more and more of these rock piles, House members should act prudently now and vote against the compromise, Miller urged.

"They shouldn't be fooled into thinking that they are voting for just four," he said. "What will they tell the fifth beach town that comes to them in the future? Or the sixth and seventh? Will they refuse to follow the court order that requires that property away from inlets be similarly protected?"

The federation, the largest coastal environmental group in the state, has lobbied against allowing groins on our beaches because of their cost and the environmental damage they do. Groins, jetties, seawalls and other types of hard structure aren't currently allowed on the state's beaches because they can destroy the beach by increasing erosion.

A public opinion poll commissioned by the federation last month found that most voters in the state don't want hard structures built on the beaches and they certainly don't want to pay for them.

"There is very little public support for this around the state," Miller said. "The push to weaken a farsighted state policy has come from a handful of people who chose to build their homes in very risky locations."

If the legislature passes the compromise, Gov. Beverly Perdue should veto it, Miller said. "She has said in the past that she supports keeping current state policy in place," he said. "We hope she will if this lands on her desk."

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**About the North Carolina Coastal Federation: Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast**

*The N.C. Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The federation's headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out its website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)*