



For Immediate Release

June 15, 2011

Contact: Frank Tursi
Phone: 252.241.3505
Email: frankt@nccoast.org

Federation Urges Perdue to Protect Beaches, Veto Jetty Bill

The N.C. Coastal Federation calls on Gov. Beverly Perdue to veto an ill-advised bill that will for the first time allow small jetties to be built along the state's beaches.

As many as four small jetties, or groins, are allowed in the bill that the N.C. General Assembly passed Tuesday night. Such structures are currently banned on the state's beaches because they can hasten erosion.

"This is sad day for our lovely beaches," said Todd Miller, the federation's executive director. "The bill marks the first weakening of a 25-year-old policy that has protected our beaches and made them the envy of the country. We call on Gov. Perdue to veto a very bad bill that could destroy them."

The federation, the largest coastal conservation group in the state, has lobbied against the bill because of groins' potential environmental damage and their cost. A state study concluded that a groin can cost as much as \$10 million to build and almost \$3 million a year to maintain.

But the push to weaken state law has had the backing of some beach towns and wealthy contributors on Figure Eight Island. Some property owners on the exclusive, private island near Wilmington want to build a groin to protect about a dozen houses on

the island. Island property owners have given more than \$100 million to political candidates since 2004, according to state campaign-finance records.

Perdue in the past has said she supports keeping the ban in place. “We hope she hasn’t changed her mind,” Miller said, “because our beaches need a champion right now.”

--30--

**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