



For Immediate Release

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Perdue Bows to Special Interests on Jetty Bill

OCEAN – Gov. Beverly Perdue bowed to powerful special interests by failing to stop destructive jetties from being built on our beaches, said the leader of the state’s largest and most- influential coastal conservation group.

Perdue’s decision to allow Senate Bill 110 to become law without her signature is a decision that doesn’t relieve the governor of the consequences of a bad bill, said Todd Miller, the executive director of the N.C. Coastal Federation.

“Obviously, very powerfully connected and politically active private property owners got their way with our beautiful beaches,” he said. “We’re terribly disappointed in the governor. Our beaches needed a strong and vocal champion, not deafening silence.”

The bill will allow as many as four small jetties, called groins, to be built at inlets along the coast. It weakens an almost 30-year state ban on such structures along the beaches. State policy and then law had banned jetties, groins, seawalls are other types of hard structures because they can hasten erosion elsewhere along the beach. Almost every coastal scientist in the state signed a letter supporting the ban.

The federation had 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 and parties from 2004 to 2010, according to state campaign-finance records. The deadline for filing campaign-finance forms covering the first six months of 2011 is July 27.

Perdue had said in the past that she supported keeping the ban in place.

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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