



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Mike Giles

Phone: 910.231.6687

Email: [mikeg@nccoast.org](mailto:mikeg@nccoast.org)

## **Report: A Sustainable Economic Development Vision for New Hanover**

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - The N.C. Coastal Federation, Cape Fear River Watch and local business leaders will unveil a new report on sustainable economic development at a press conference at Riverfront Park on Market and Water streets in Wilmington at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The report, "Pathways to Prosperity", describes an economic vision that relies on a collaborative effort to work with diverse groups and industries. New Hanover County and Wilmington last year commissioned Garner Economics of Atlanta to prepare the report.

"We have completed an exhaustive review of the Garner report and recommendations" says Mike Giles, a coastal advocate with the federation.

"While the report is not perfect, we embrace the report's underlying theme for encouraging collaboration among all sectors of our community and creating incentives to attract and retain industries that grow our region's economy, create jobs and protect our clean air, water supplies and natural environment. We commit to putting our money where our mouth is, and we hope that businesses, community members and our local leadership will join us in the exciting effort".

The federation has received a \$25,000 grant from the Amy Golden Foundation to support this effort. The money will support an intensive review of the current industrial development standards and offer a pathway forward for proactive and positive collaborations with all facets of the community regarding future

economic development strategies for southeastern N.C. It should help local governments, the business community and environmental organizations work closely together to shepherd in a new era of clean and intelligent industrial growth that will ensure that we have a prosperous and healthy community for all our residents and visitors.

For further information on this news conference, contact Giles at [mikeg@nccoast.org](mailto:mikeg@nccoast.org) or call him at 910.231.6687.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation:  
"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 the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates field offices in Wrightsville Beach and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

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NC Coastal Federation | 3609 HWY 24 (Ocean) | Newport | NC | 28570