

**RESOLUTION OF ACCOMACK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
IN OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL PURCHASE OF LAND
WITHIN THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE**

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) 20-year planning process has been underway for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with significant involvement and concern from the Town of Chincoteague and Accomack County; and

WHEREAS, several plan alternatives proposed would reduce or eliminate beach front parking of personal vehicles in favor of a transit shuttle during the peak season; and

WHEREAS, with no notice to the Town of Chincoteague or Accomack County, the USFWS applied for and was awarded a Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program grant of \$1.5 million for a park & ride facility, which appears to suggest a desire to achieve a pre-determined outcome in the CCP planning process; and

WHEREAS, a specific 200 acres of developed and open space property was identified by the draft CCP to be acquired for said remote transit parking; and

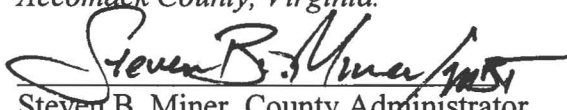
WHEREAS, the Town of Chincoteague submitted a questionnaire to over 13,000 summer visitors to the Refuge in 2010, and over 82 percent of responders stated they would not return for another visit if beach access is by transit from remote parking; and

WHEREAS, the loss of private investment, jobs, and tax revenue from both the loss of the tourism business on the property and the loss of beach visitors would severely adversely impact the Town of Chincoteague and Accomack County economies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accomack County Board of Supervisors hereby declares its opposition and urges the U.S. Department of the Interior to oppose the Paul S. Sarbanes grant sought without notice to the localities and the federal purchase of any land within the Town of Chincoteague; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Ken Salazar, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors in this matter.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution approved February 15, 2012, at a meeting of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, Accomack County, Virginia.


Steven B. Miner, County Administrator
& Clerk to the Board of Supervisors


DATE